

A wide-angle photograph of the San Francisco skyline, featuring the Transamerica Pyramid and other skyscrapers. In the foreground, there is a construction site with a yellow excavator and a white truck. A purple horizontal bar is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing the title text.

San Francisco Traffic Stops

Analysis of 2019 San Francisco Traffic Stop Data



Ideas + Action
for a Better City



- **SPUR**
- **Data and Analysis**
- **Traffic Stops in San Francisco**
- **Pretext Stop Analysis**



Data and Analysis

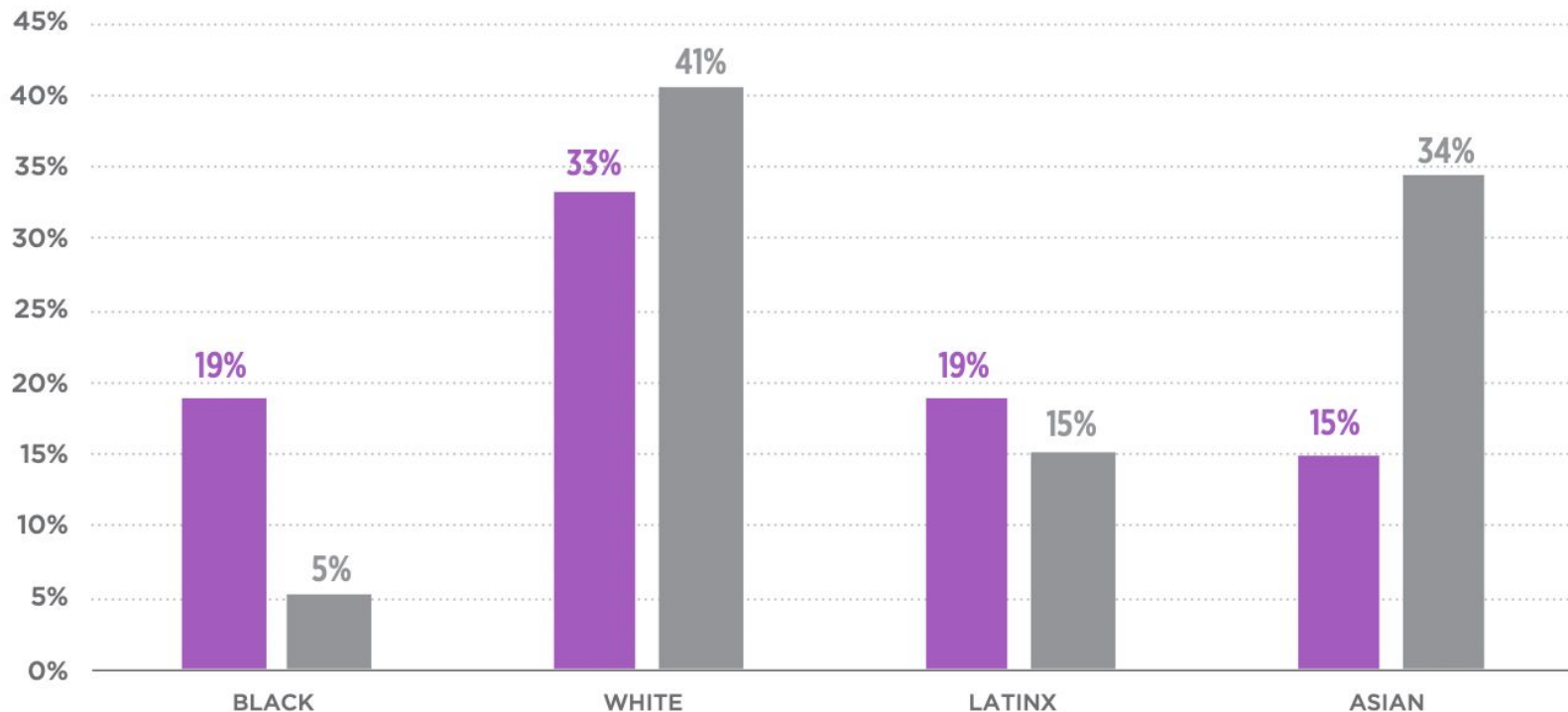
- This analysis uses the 2019 Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) data
 - The most recent year for which we have data where driver behavior was normal
 - Pandemic disrupted driving behaviors and make 2020 and 2021 data not useful for analysis
 - 2022 promises to be more representative of true patterns
- Demographic data comes from the 2019 5-year American Community Survey

Traffic Stops in San Francisco

- California has some of the most expensive traffic citations in the United States
- High cost of traffic citations have a disproportionate impact on lower income people
- While traffic stops and citations are intended to make our roads safer, many stops have nothing to do with road safety but have severe economic consequences for people who receive citations
- In 2019, there were more than 60,000 traffic stops conducted by the San Francisco Police Department

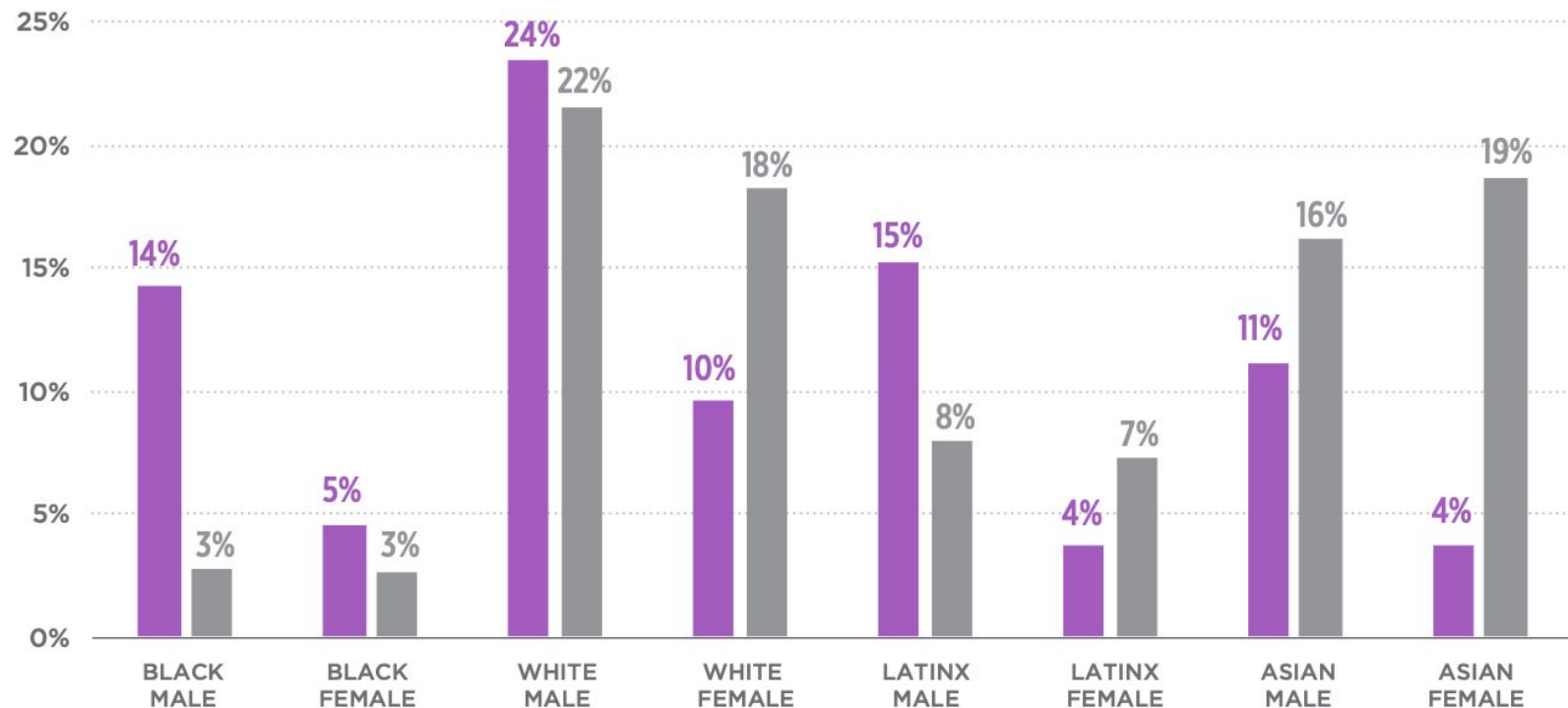
Traffic Stops by Race and Ethnicity

■ Share of Traffic Stops ■ Share of Population

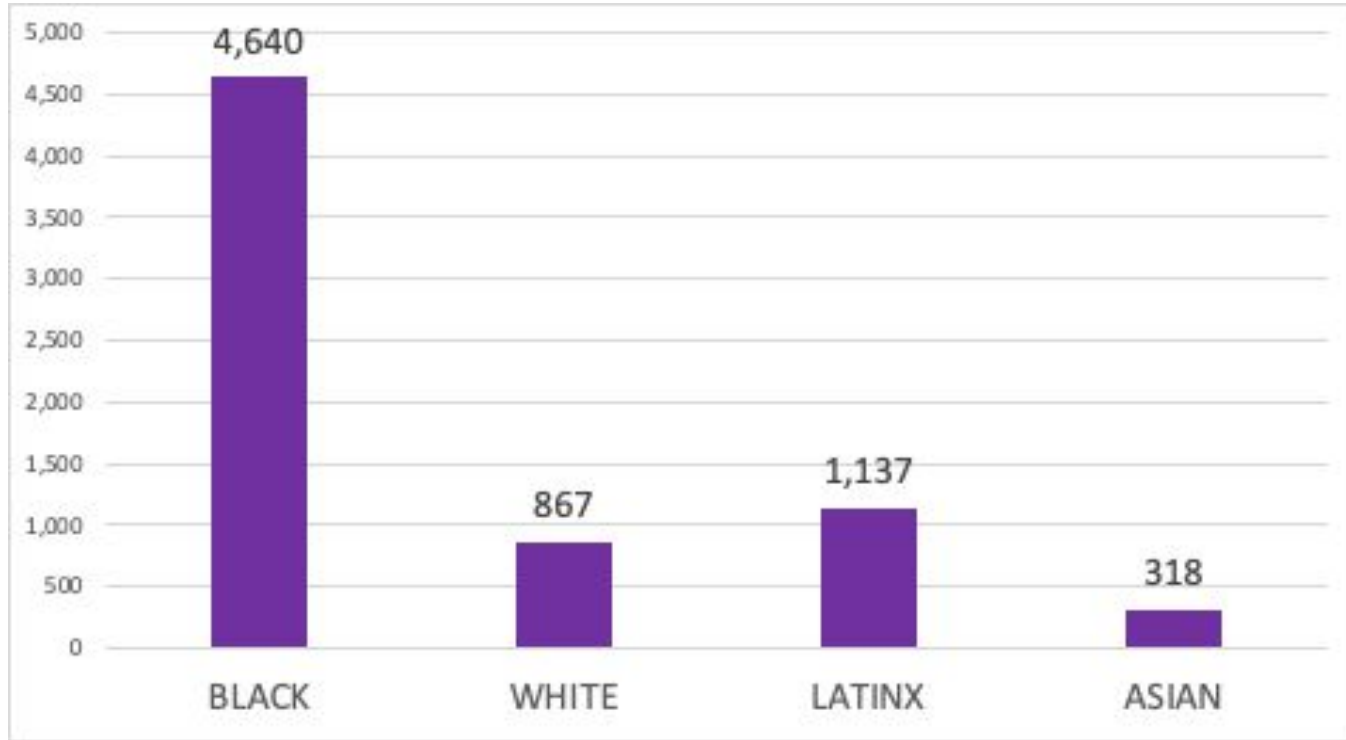


Traffic Stops by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

■ Share of Traffic Stops ■ Share of Population



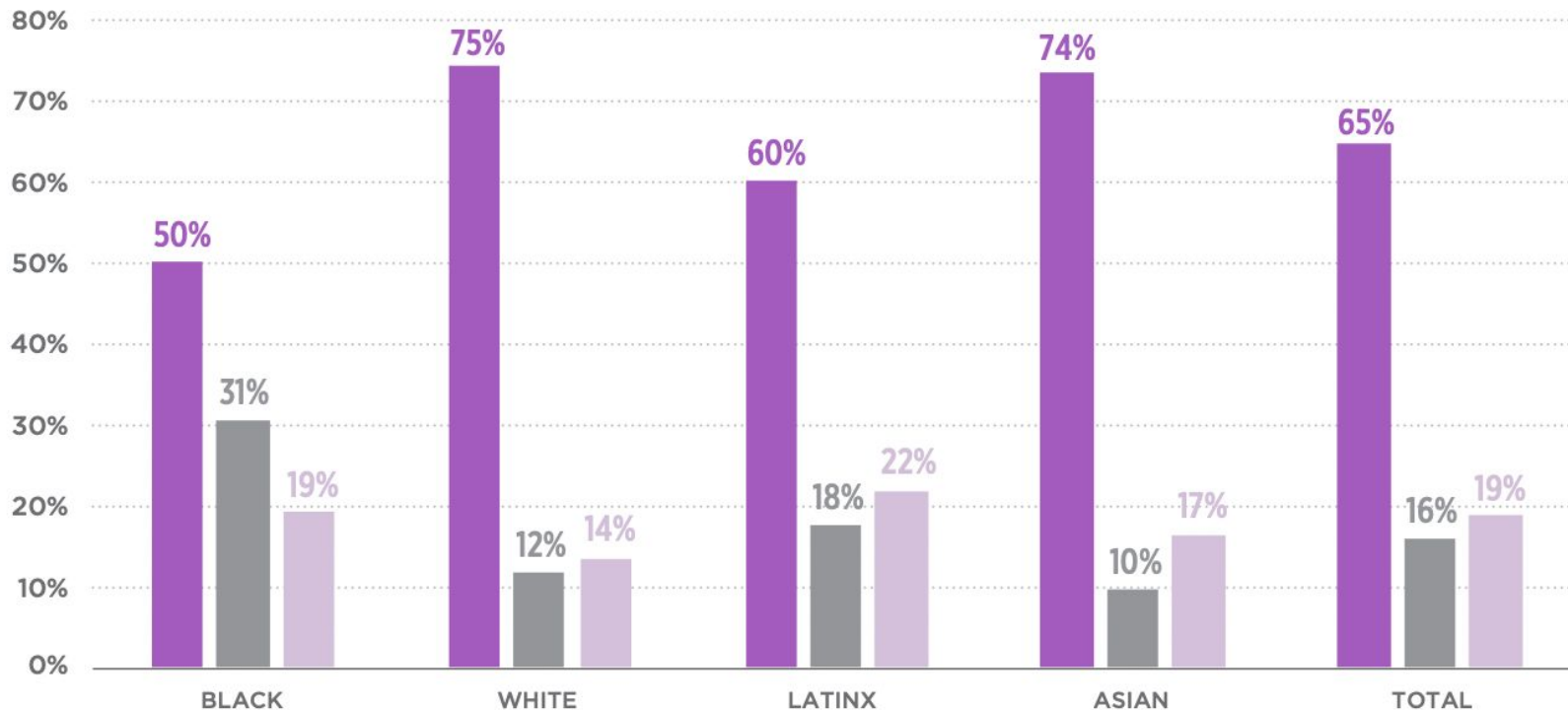
Per Capita Stop Rate, by Race and Ethnicity



Per 10,000 residents

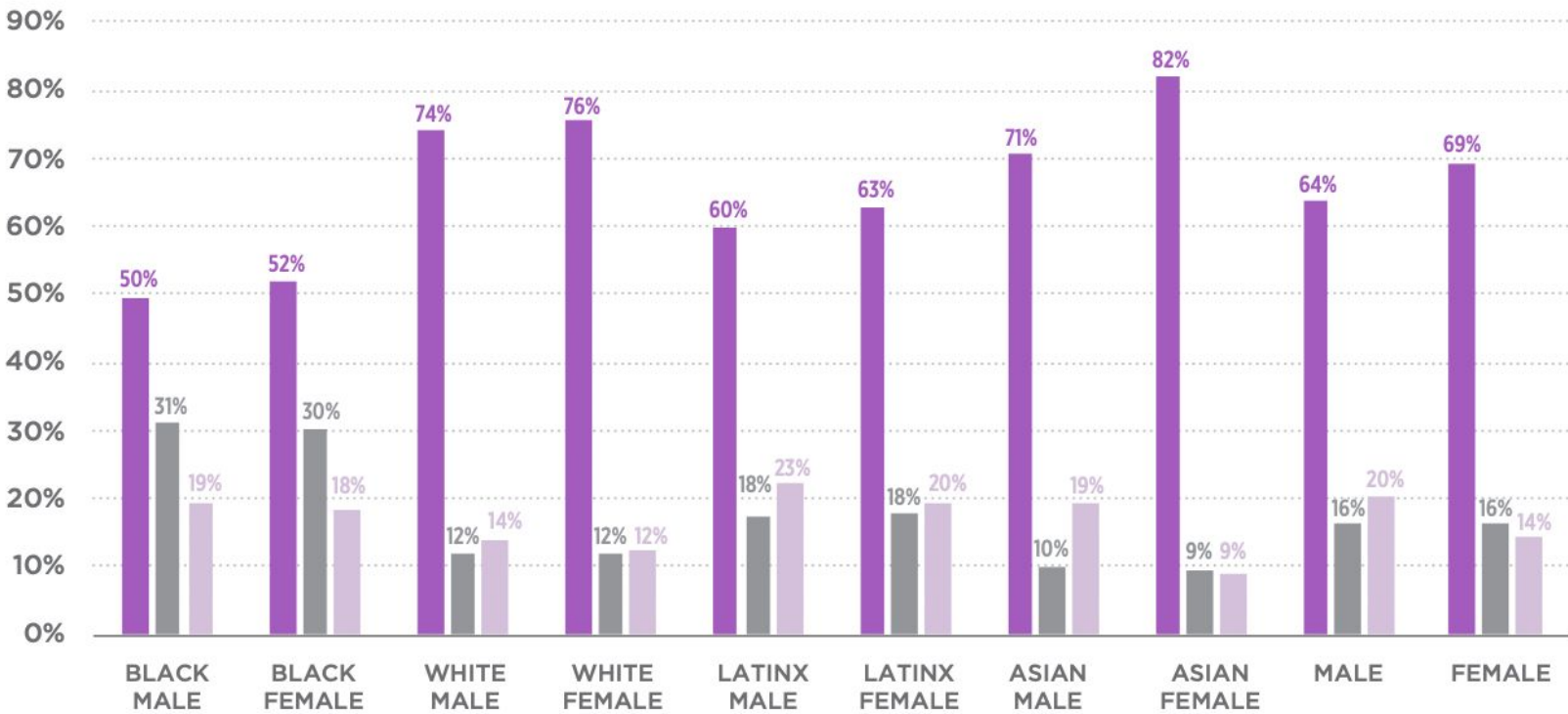
Reason for Stop by Race and Ethnicity

■ Moving ■ Equipment ■ Nonmoving



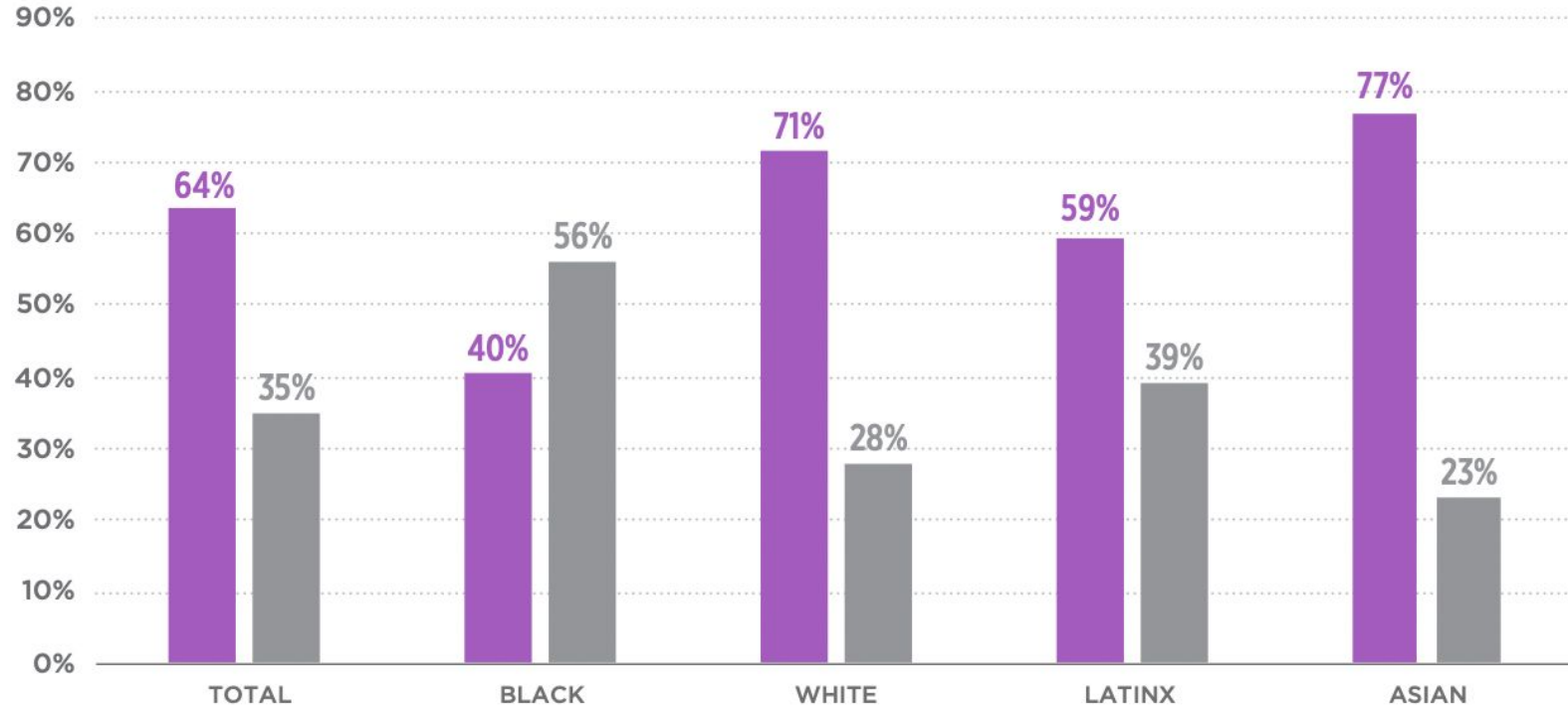
Reason for Stop by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

Moving Equipment Nonmoving



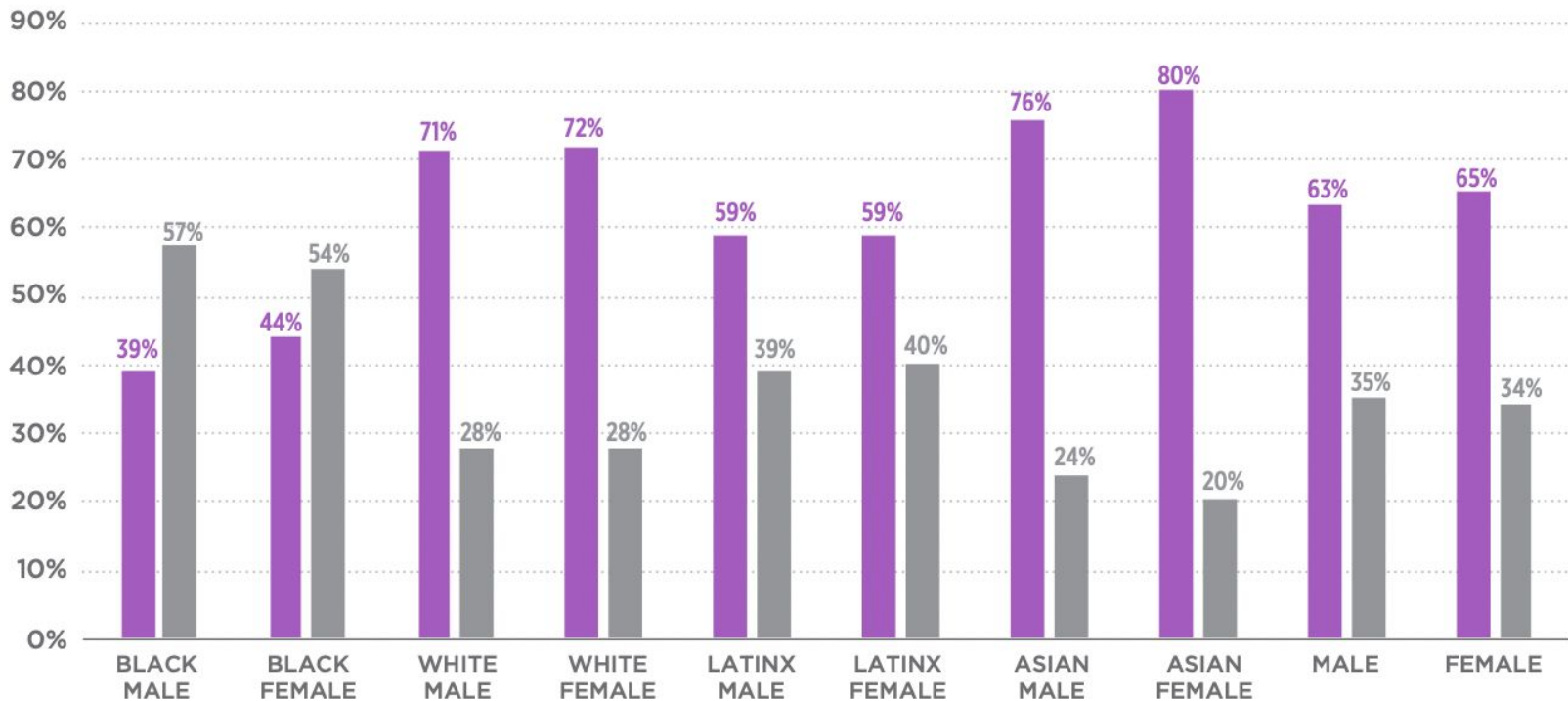
Result of Traffic Stop by Race and Ethnicity

■ Citation ■ No Citation

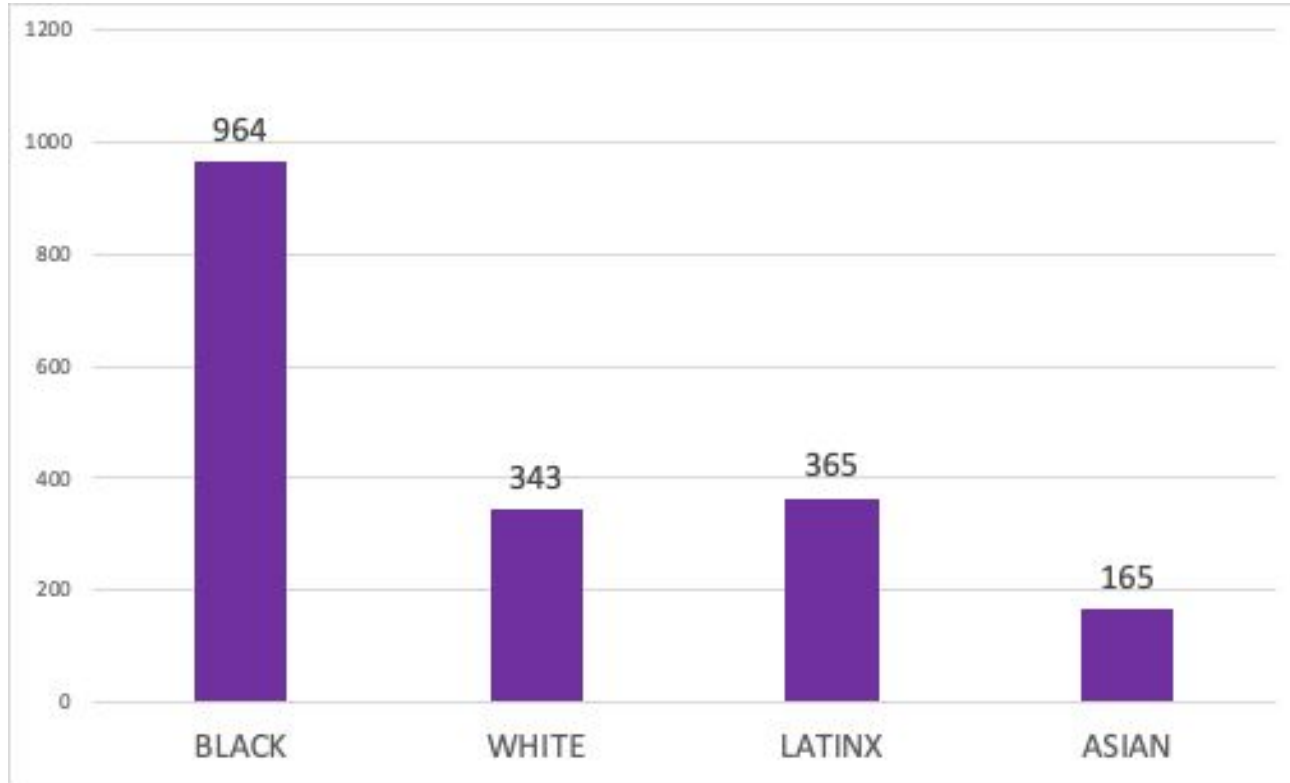


Result of Stop by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

■ Citation ■ No Citation



Per Capita Citation Rate, by Race and Ethnicity

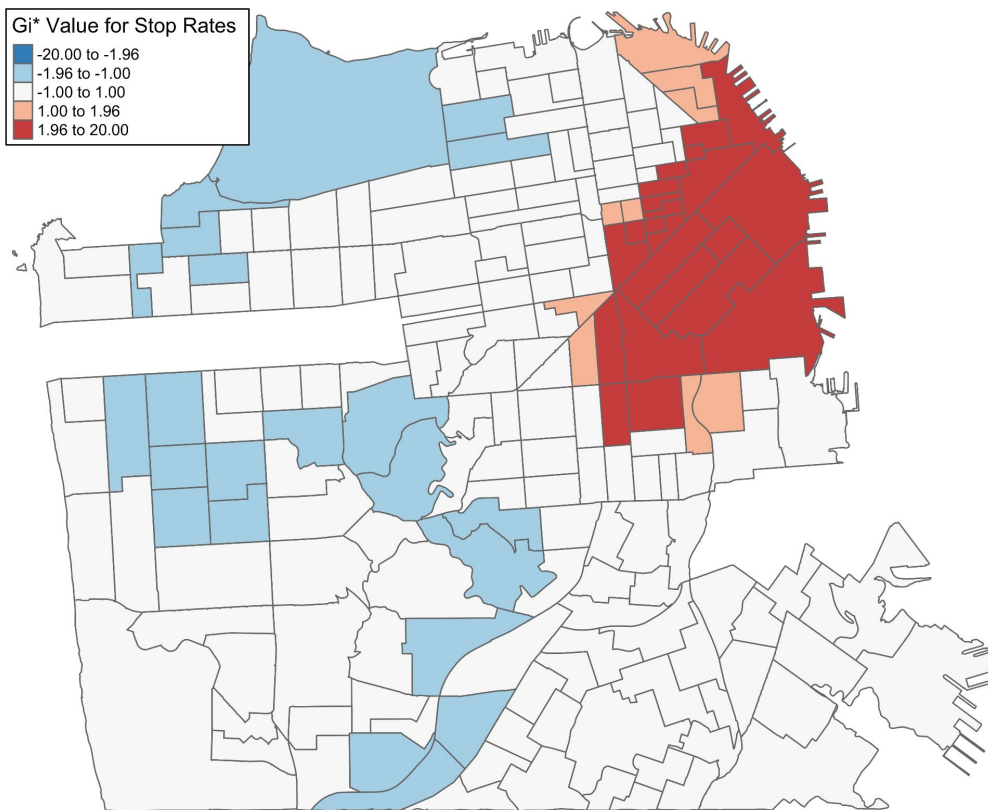


Per 10,000 residents

Most Common Reason for Stop by Race and Ethnicity

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
BLACK	Display license plates incorrectly	Failure to obey signs or signals	No registration for vehicle, trailer, etc.
WHITE	Failure to stop vehicle at stop sign, crosswalk, etc.	Failure to obey signs or signals	Unsafe speed for prevailing conditions
LATINX	Local ordinance violation	Failure to obey signs or signals	Failure to stop vehicle at stop sign, crosswalk, etc.
ASIAN	Failure to stop vehicle at stop sign, crosswalk, etc.	Local ordinance violation	Unsafe speed for prevailing conditions
TOTAL	Local ordinance violation	Failure to stop vehicle at stop sign, crosswalk, etc.	Failure to obey signs or signals

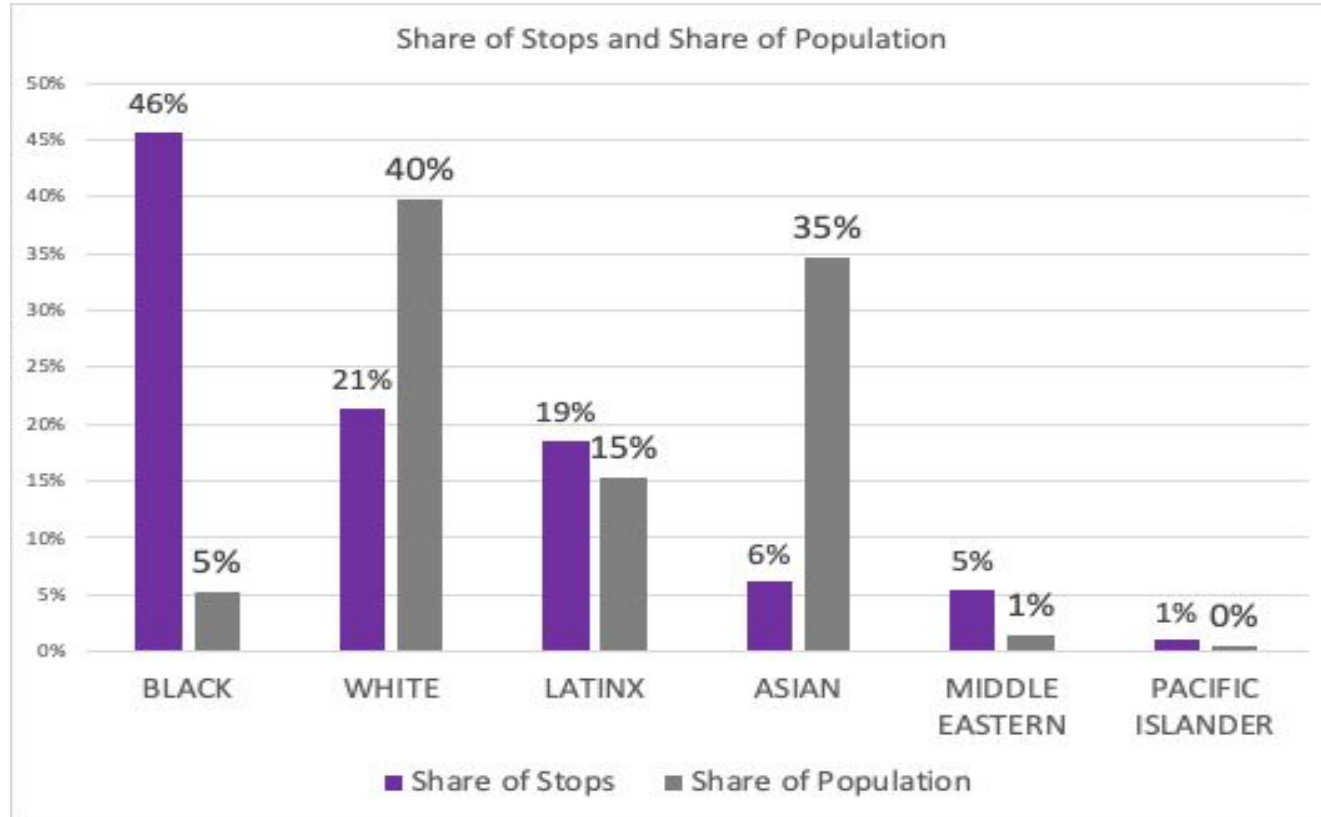
Spatial Analysis of Traffic Stops



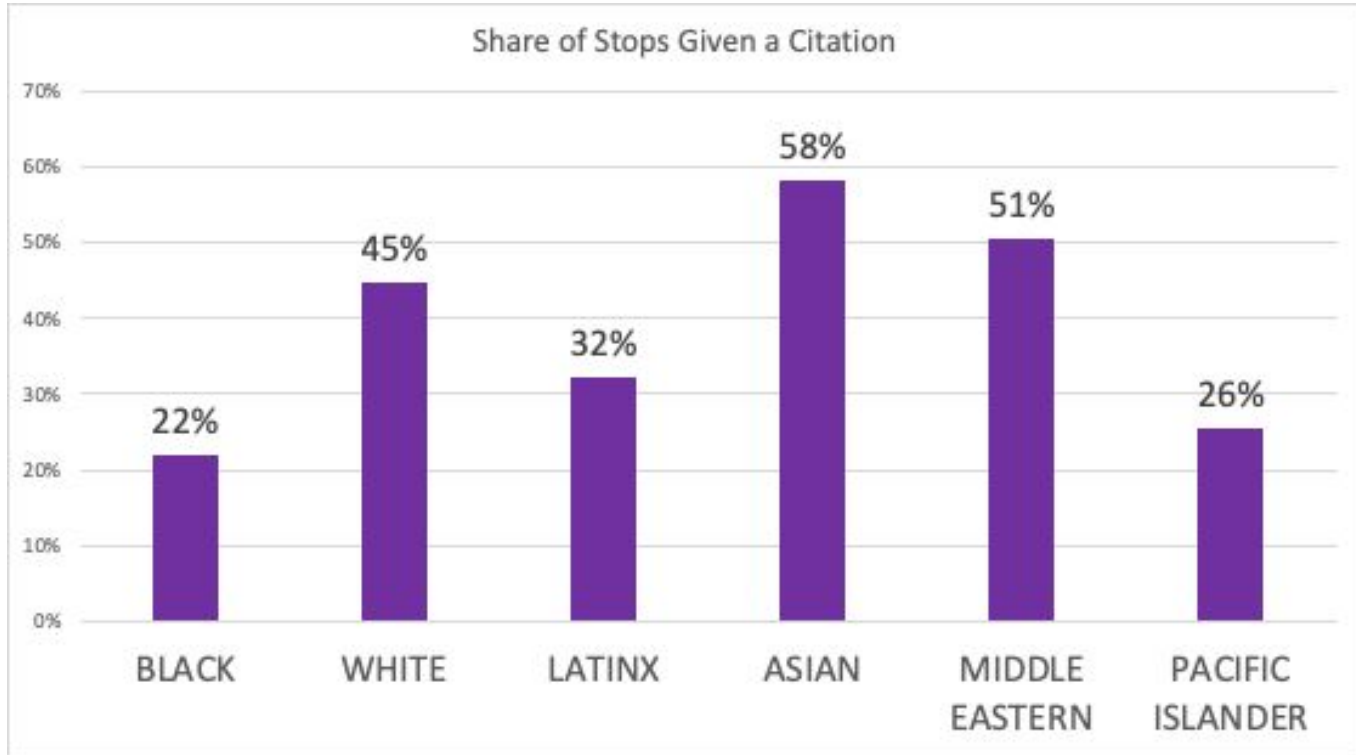
Pretext Stops Analysis

- Demographic analysis of the proposed traffic stops banned
- Per capita analysis
- Search and arrest analysis
- Only pretext stops in the California Code

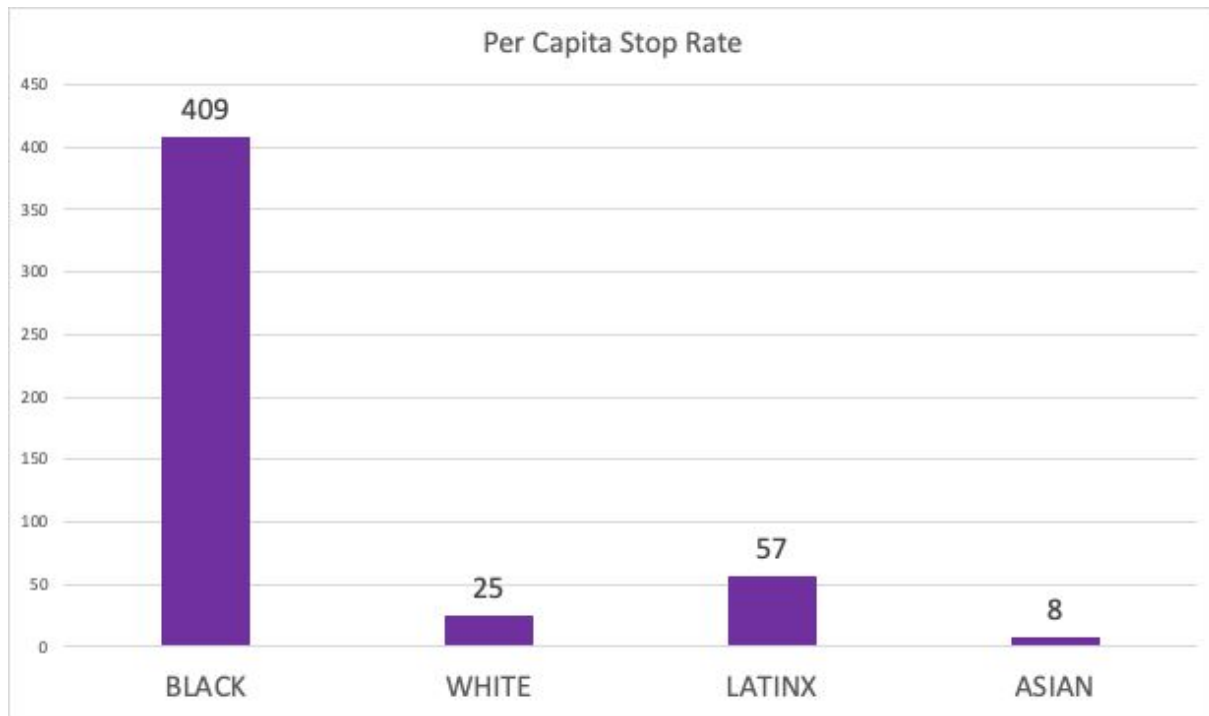
Failure to Display Both License Plates



Failure to Display Both License Plates

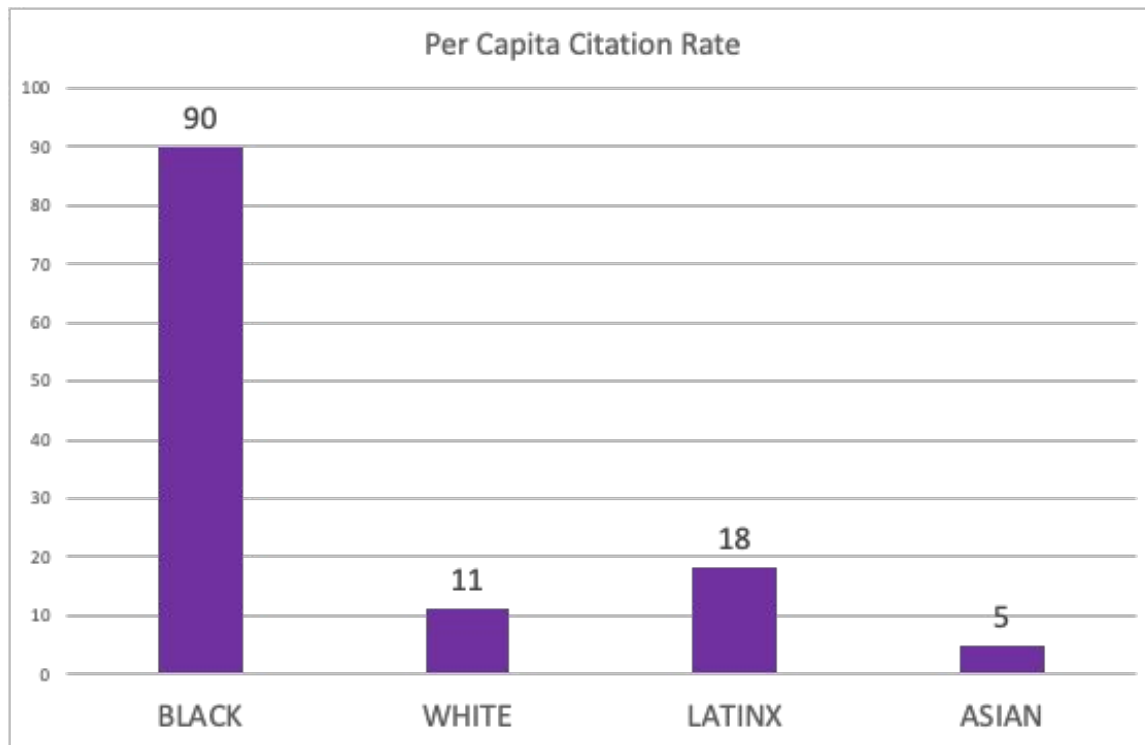


Failure to Display Both License Plates



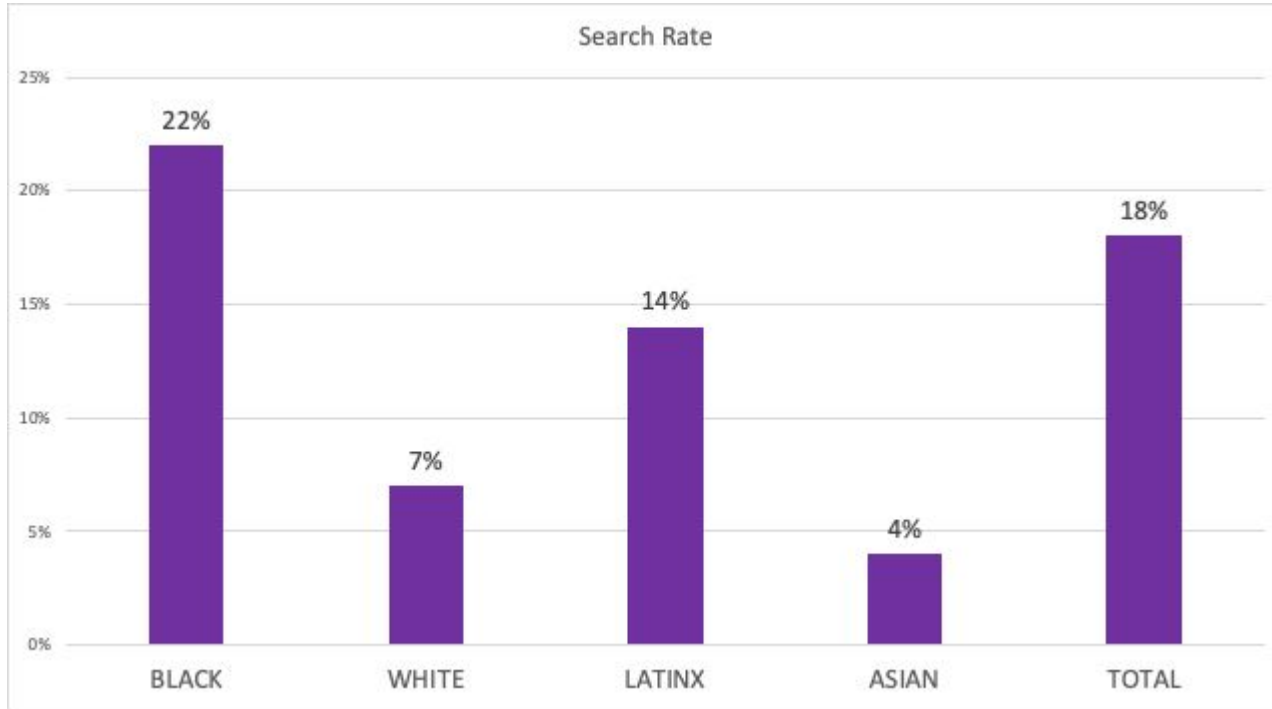
Per 10,000 residents

Failure to Display Both License Plates



Per 10,000 residents

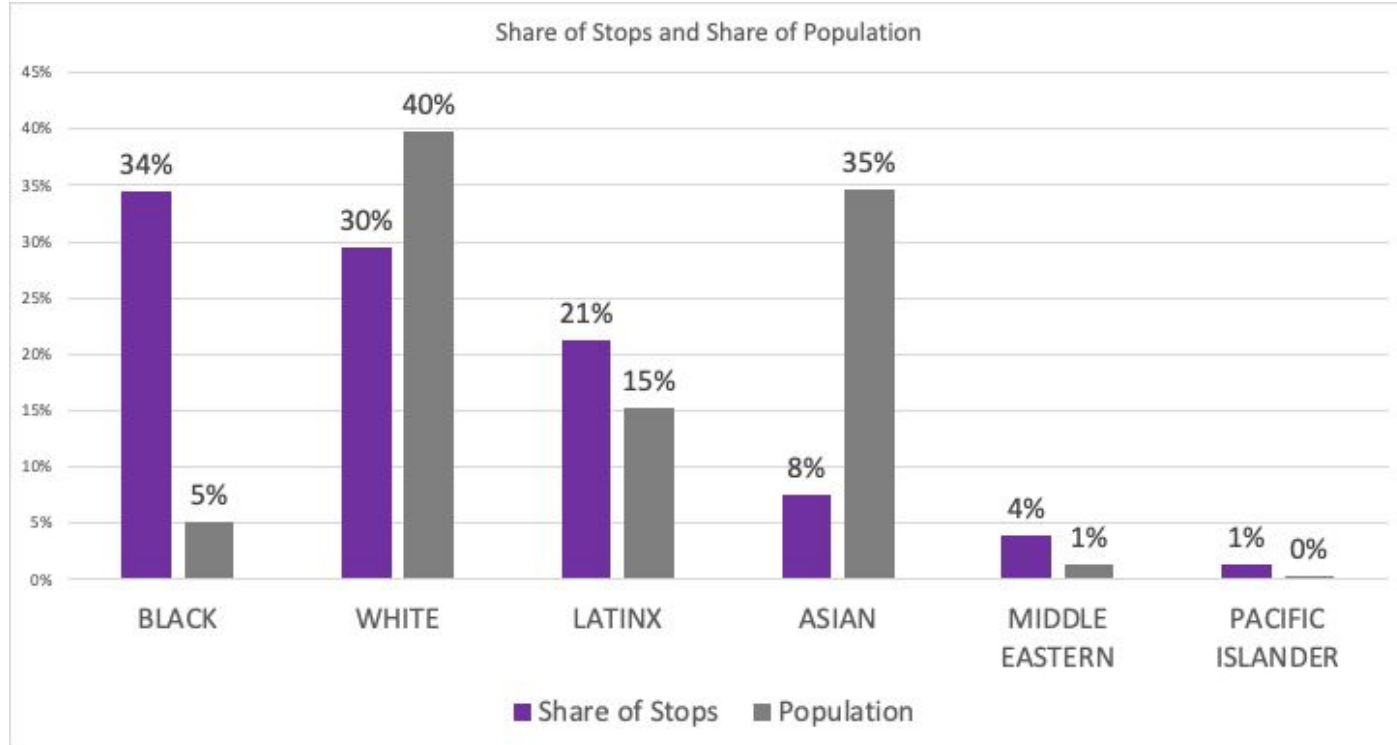
Failure to Display Both License Plates



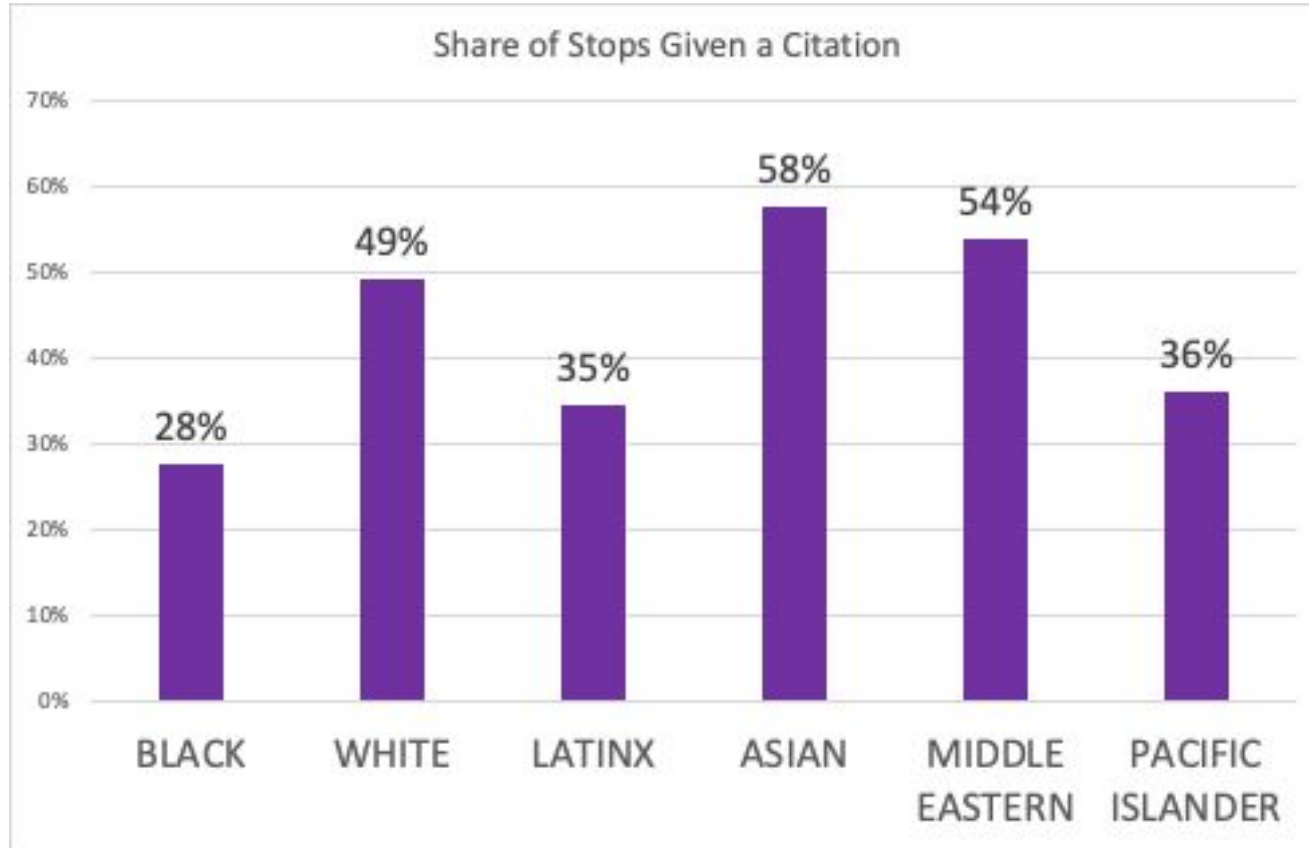
Failure to Display Both License Plates

- 4,122 total stops
- 6% of searches resulted in recovery of contraband
- Less than 1% of stops resulted in discovery of a gun
- 1% of stops resulted in an arrest

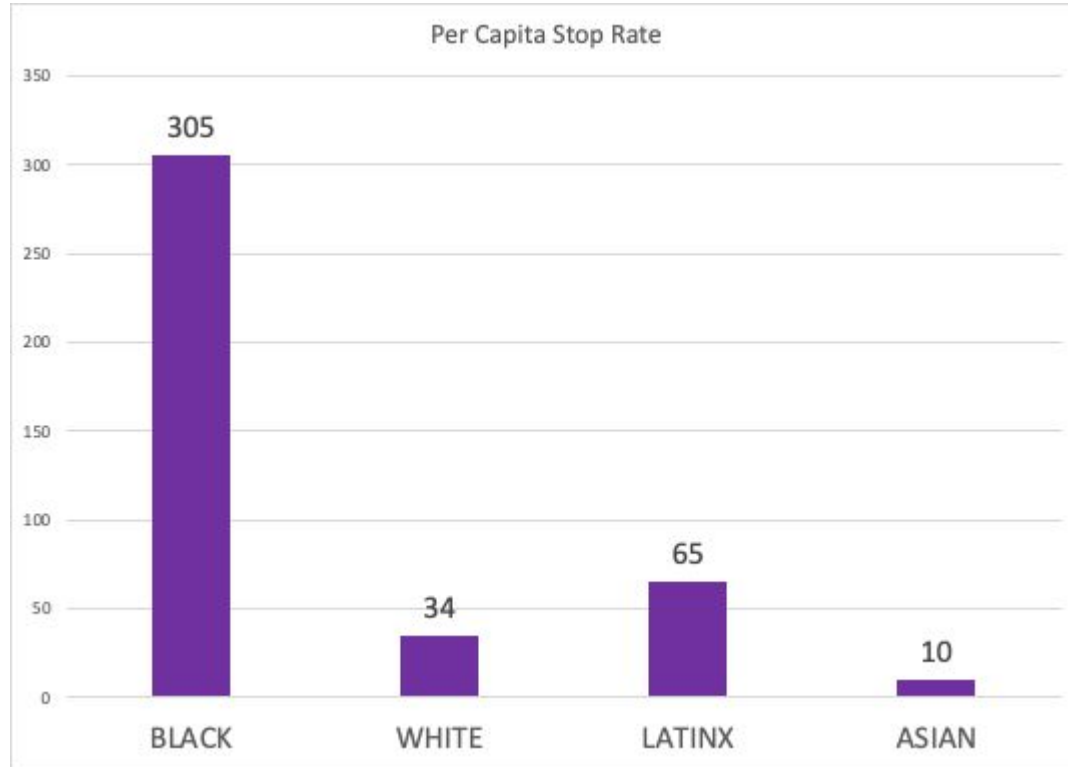
Failure to Display Registration Tags or Expired Registration



Failure to Display Registration Tags or Expired Registration

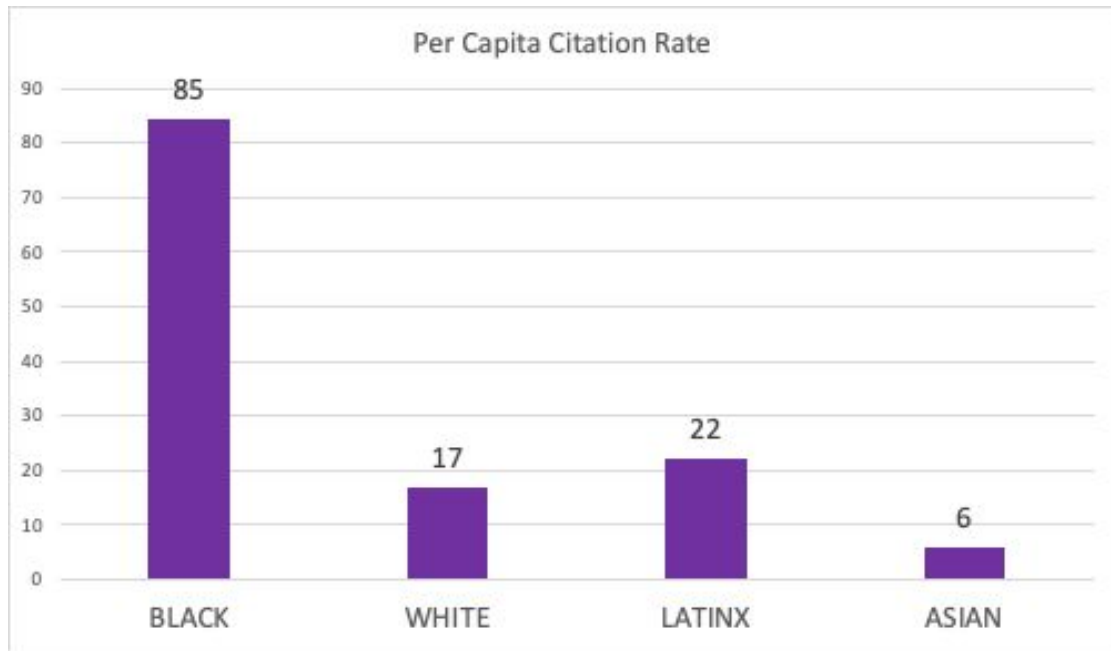


Failure to Display Registration Tags or Expired Registration



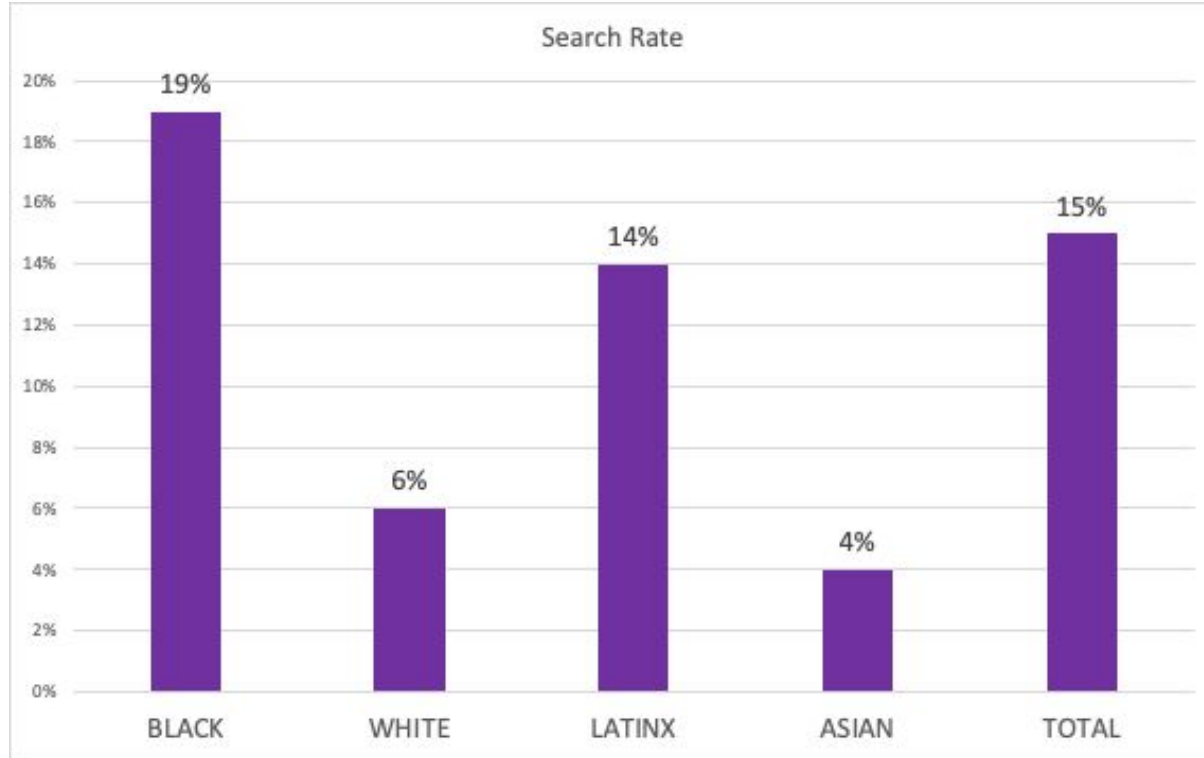
Per 10,000 residents

Failure to Display Registration Tags or Expired Registration



Per 10,000 residents

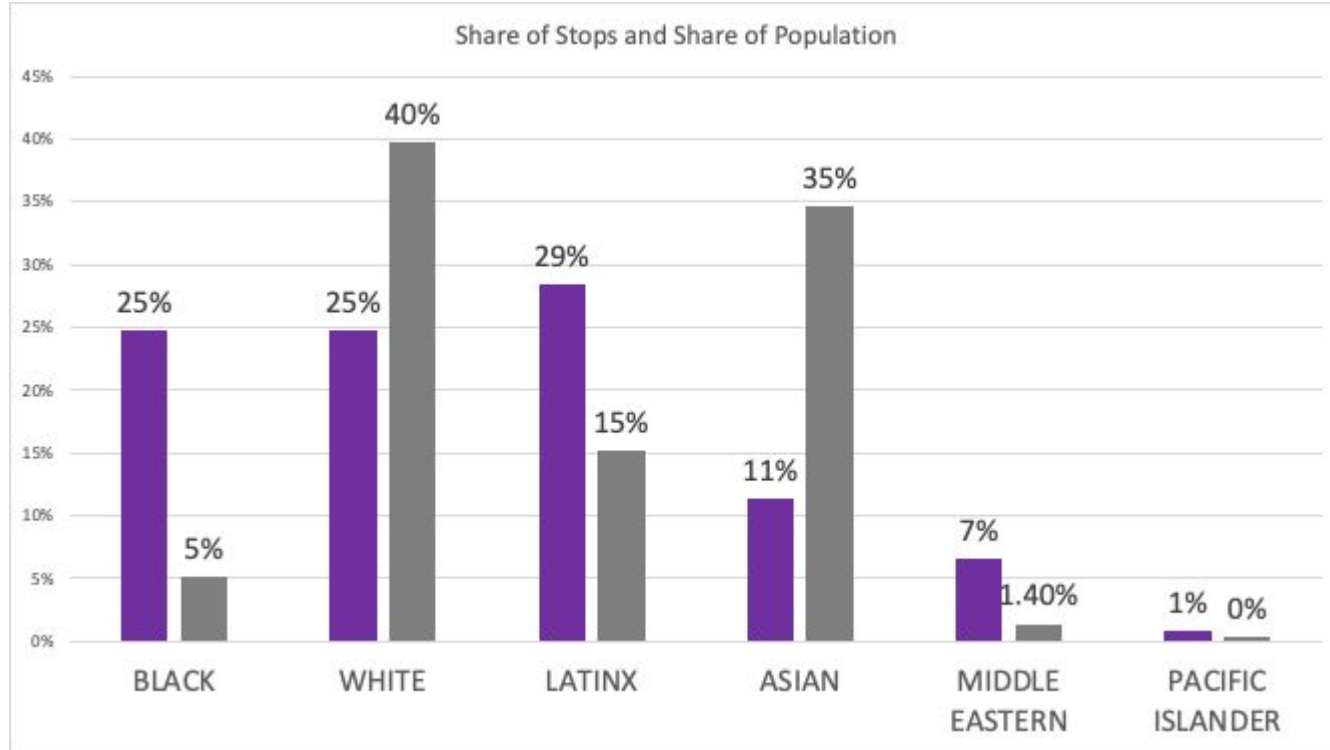
Failure to Display Registration Tags or Expired Registration



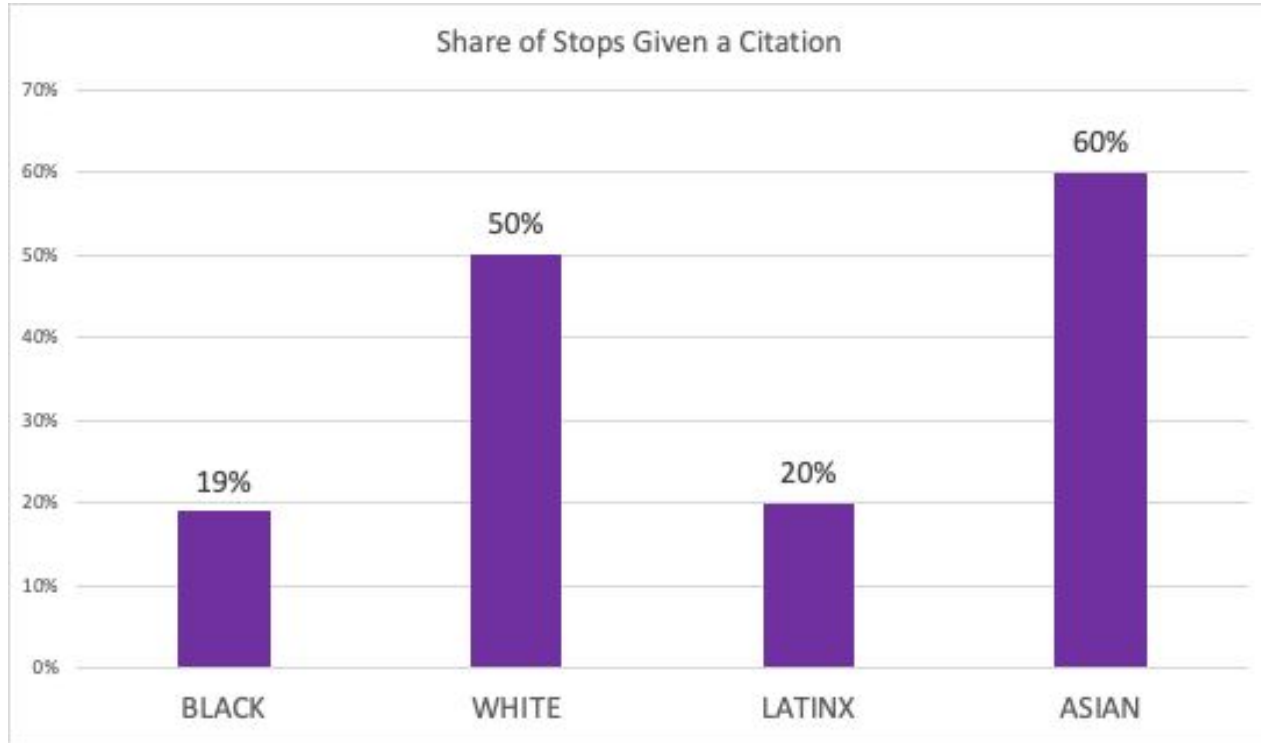
Failure to Display Registration Tags or Expired Registration

- 4,086 total stops
- 5% of searches resulted in recovery of contraband
- Fewer than 1% of stops resulted in recovery of a gun
- 0.7% of stops resulted in an arrest

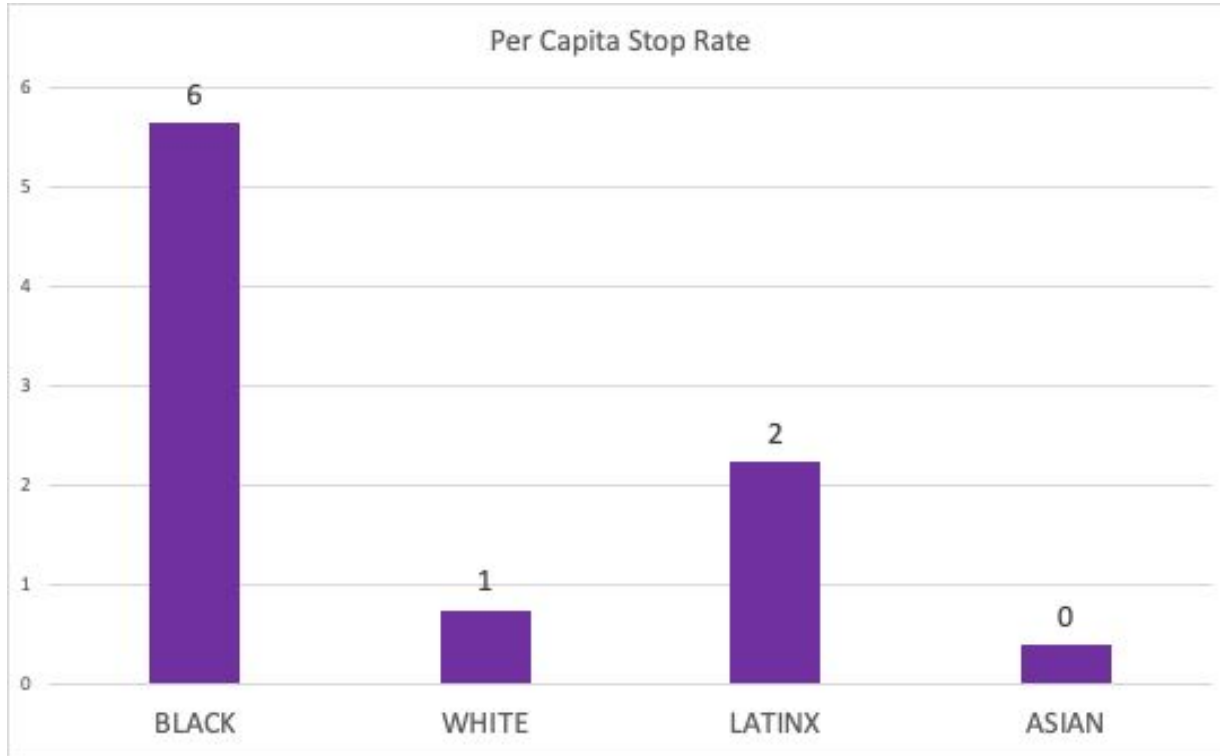
Failure to Illuminate License Plate



Failure to Illuminate License Plate

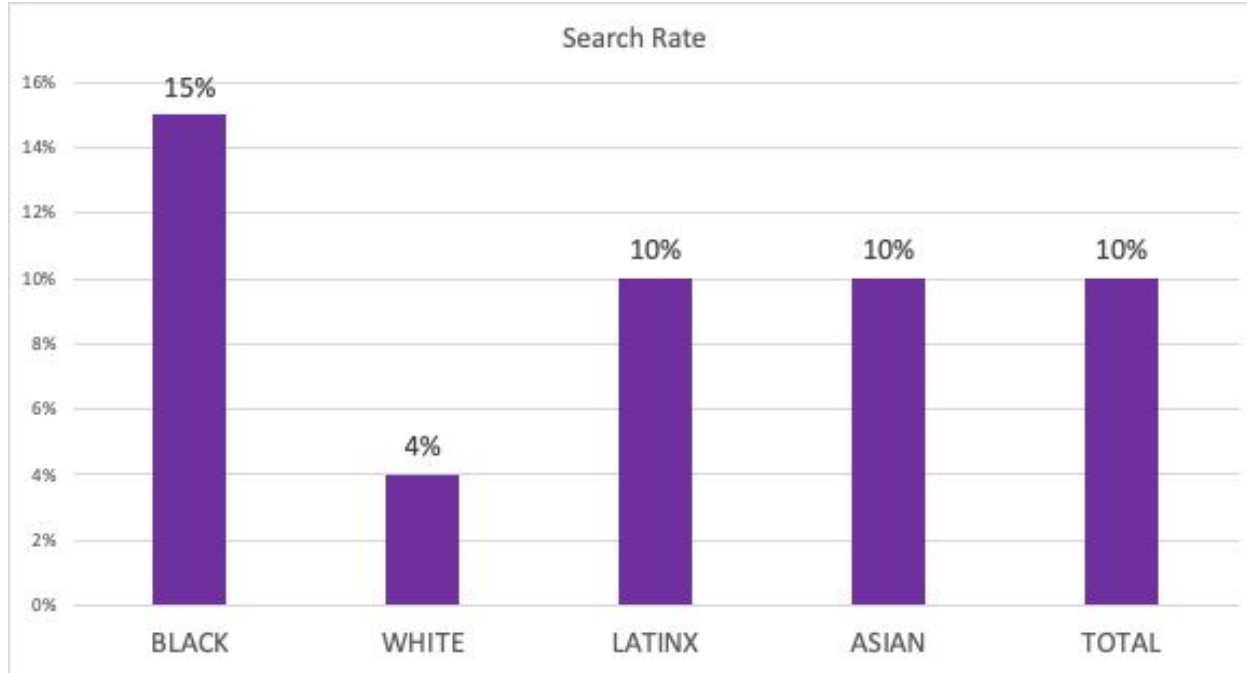


Failure to Illuminate License Plate



Per 10,000 residents

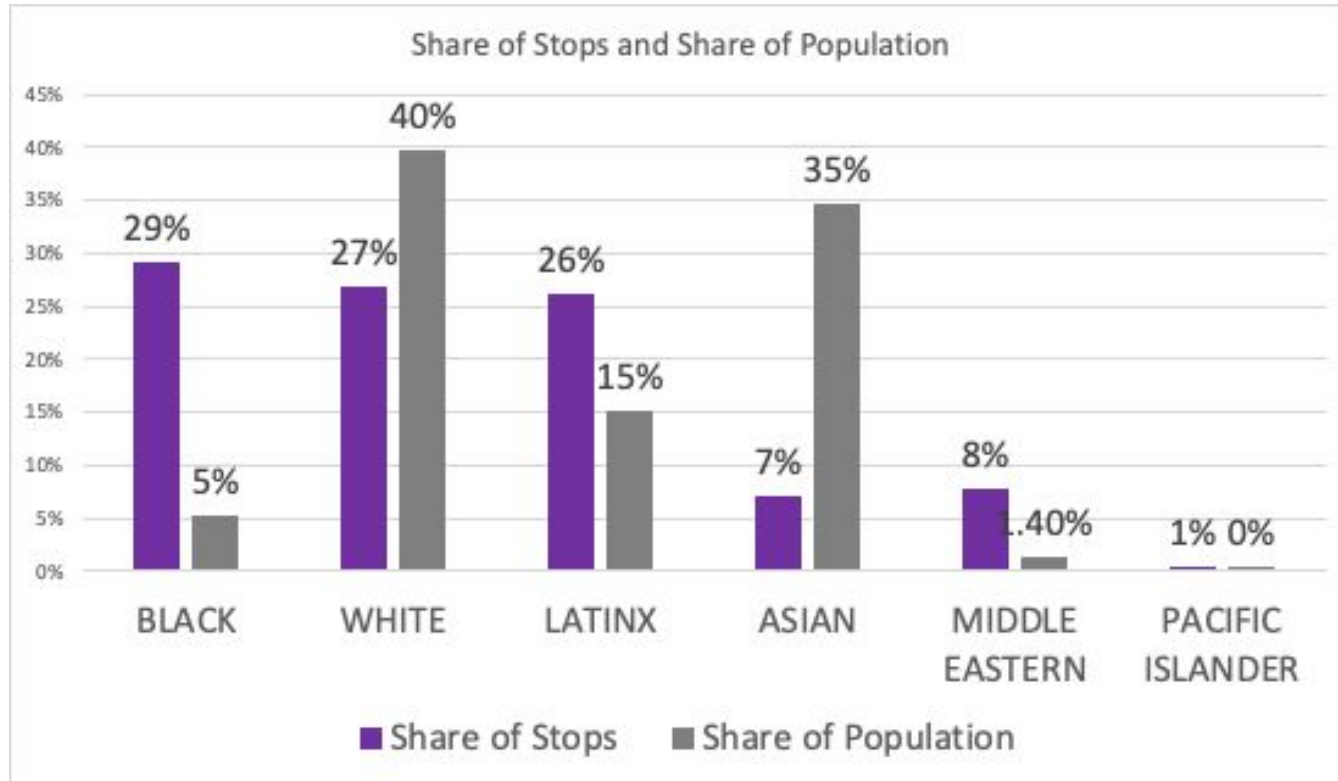
Failure to Illuminate License Plate



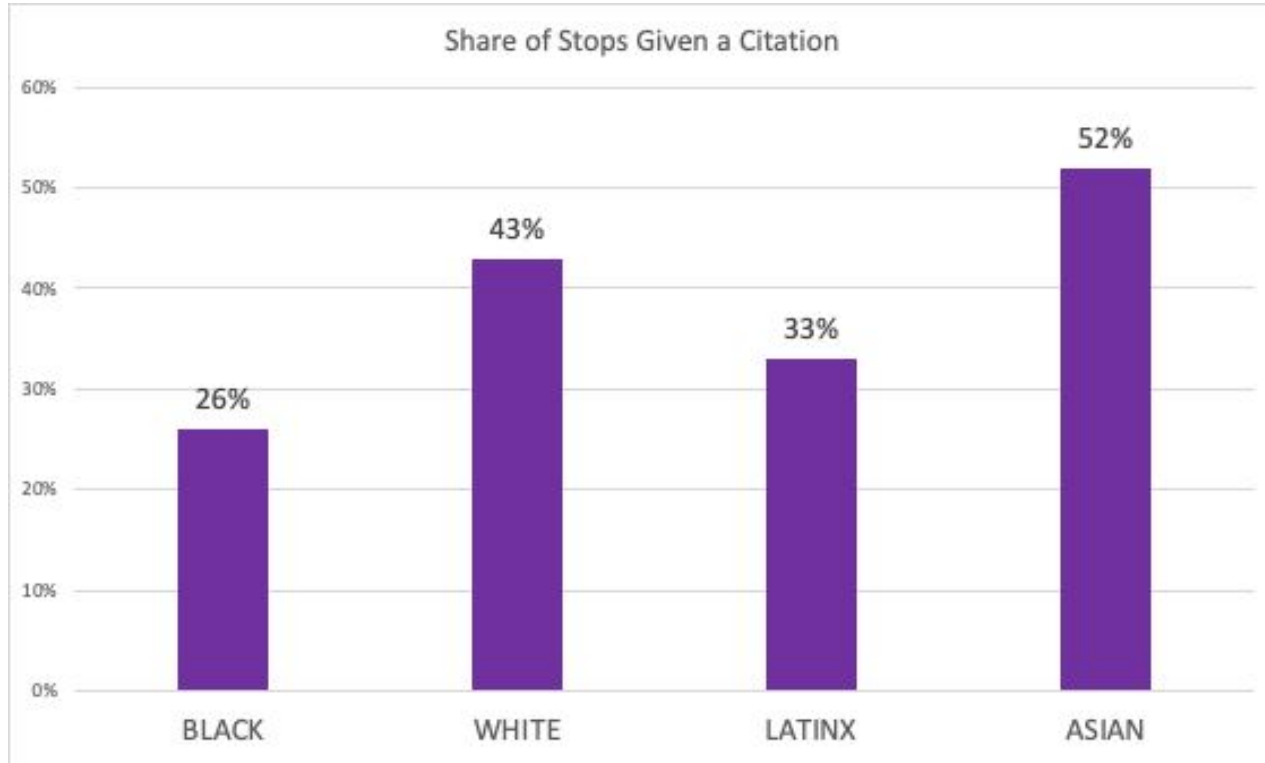
Failure to Illuminate License Plate

- 105 stops in 2019
- 1% of searches resulted in recovery of contraband
- No guns were recovered during these stops
- No stops resulted in an arrest

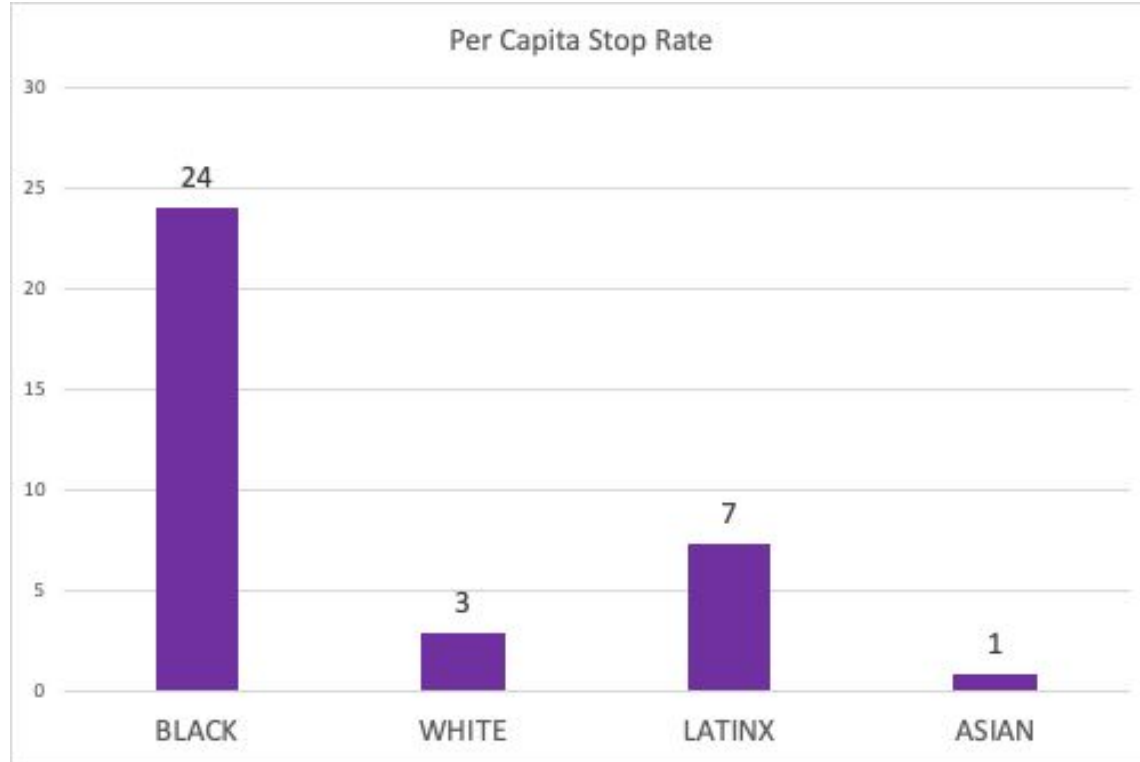
Driving Without Illuminated Tail Lights



Driving Without Illuminated Tail Lights

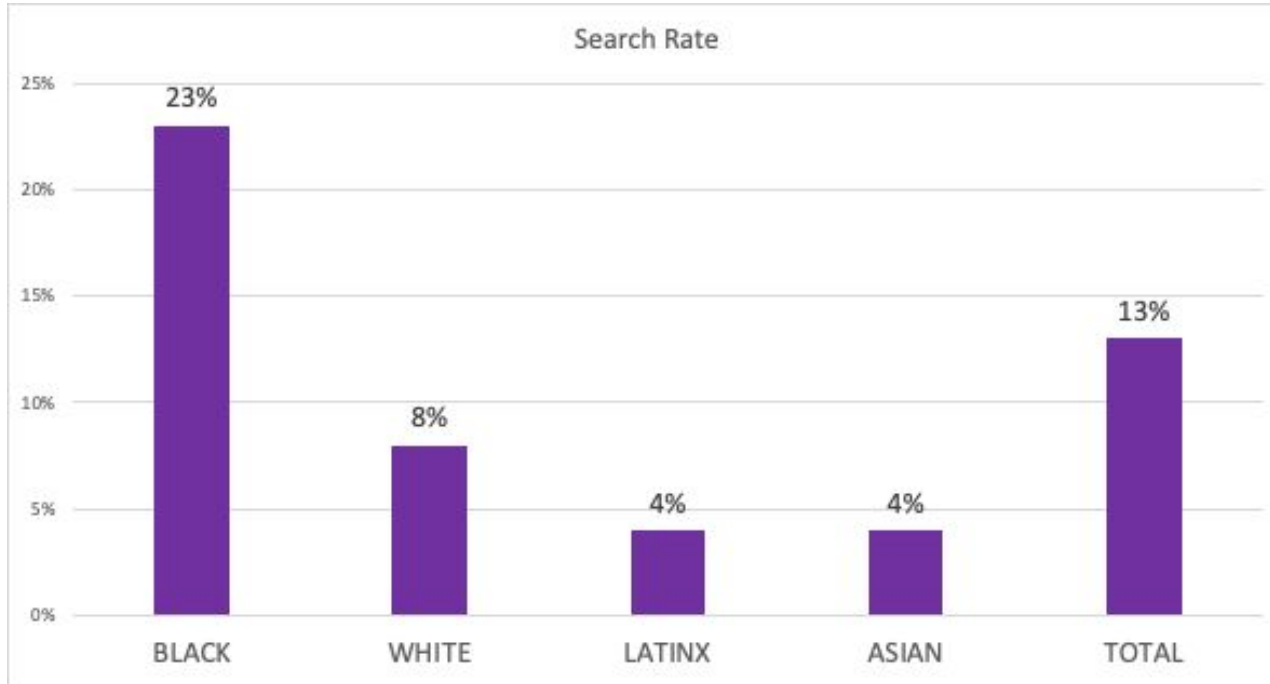


Driving Without Illuminated Tail Lights



Per 10,000 residents

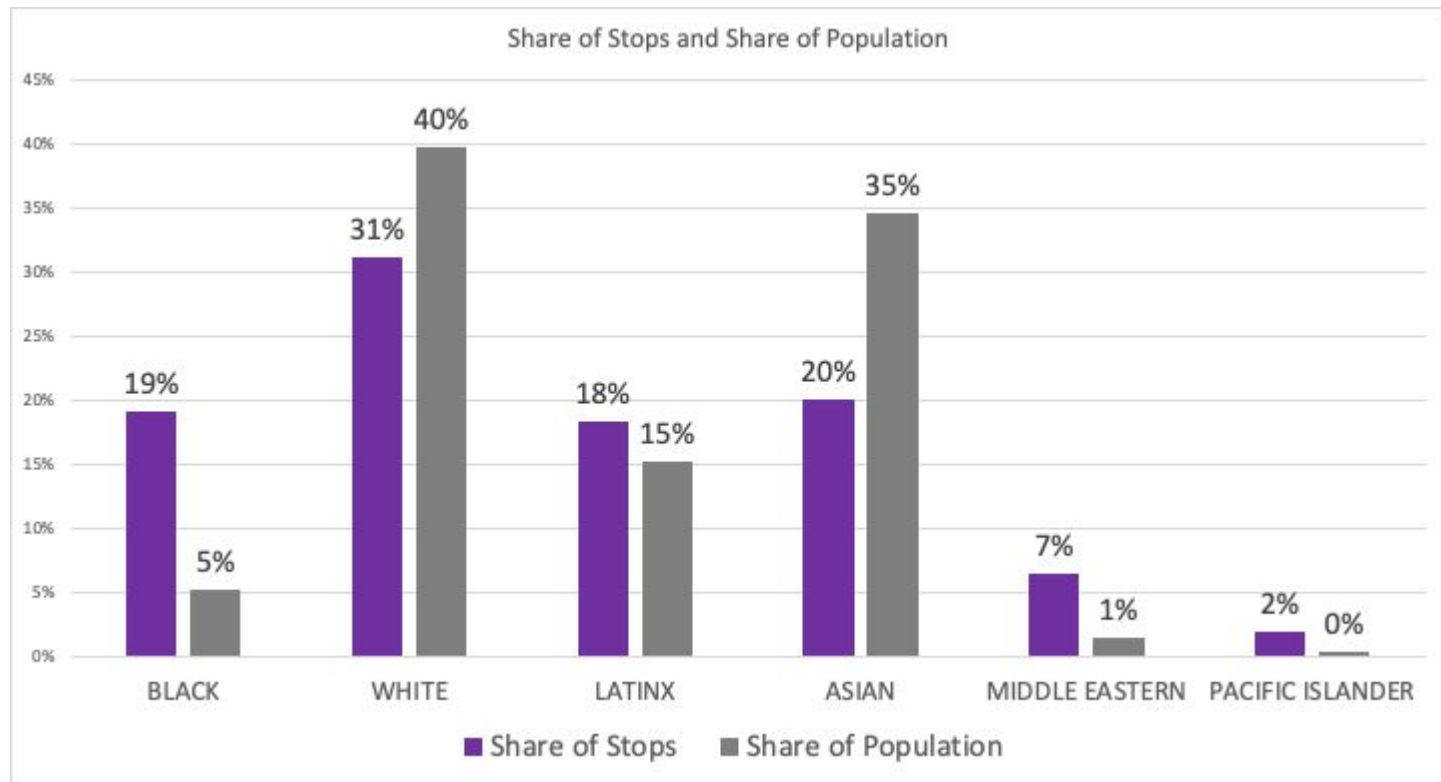
Driving Without Illuminated Tail Lights



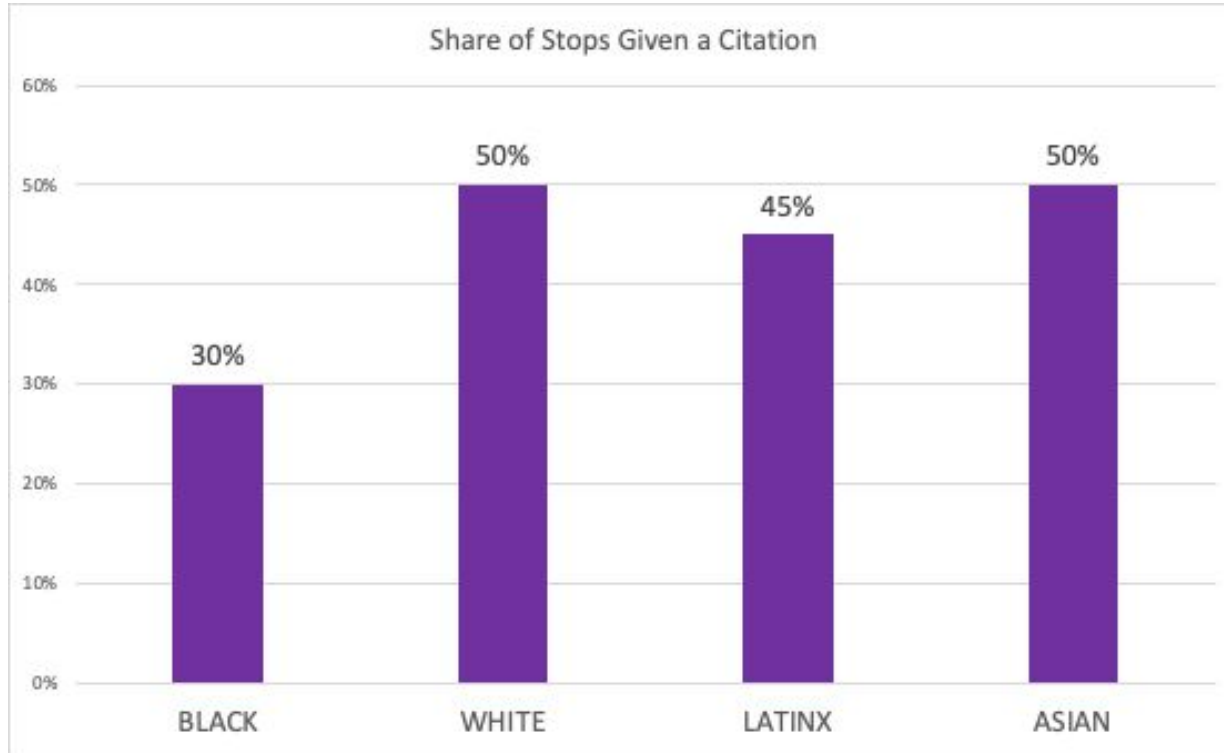
Driving Without Illuminated Tail Lights

- 379 total stops
- 4% of searches resulted in recovery of contraband
- 1% of stops resulted in recovery of a gun
- 2% of stops resulted in an arrest

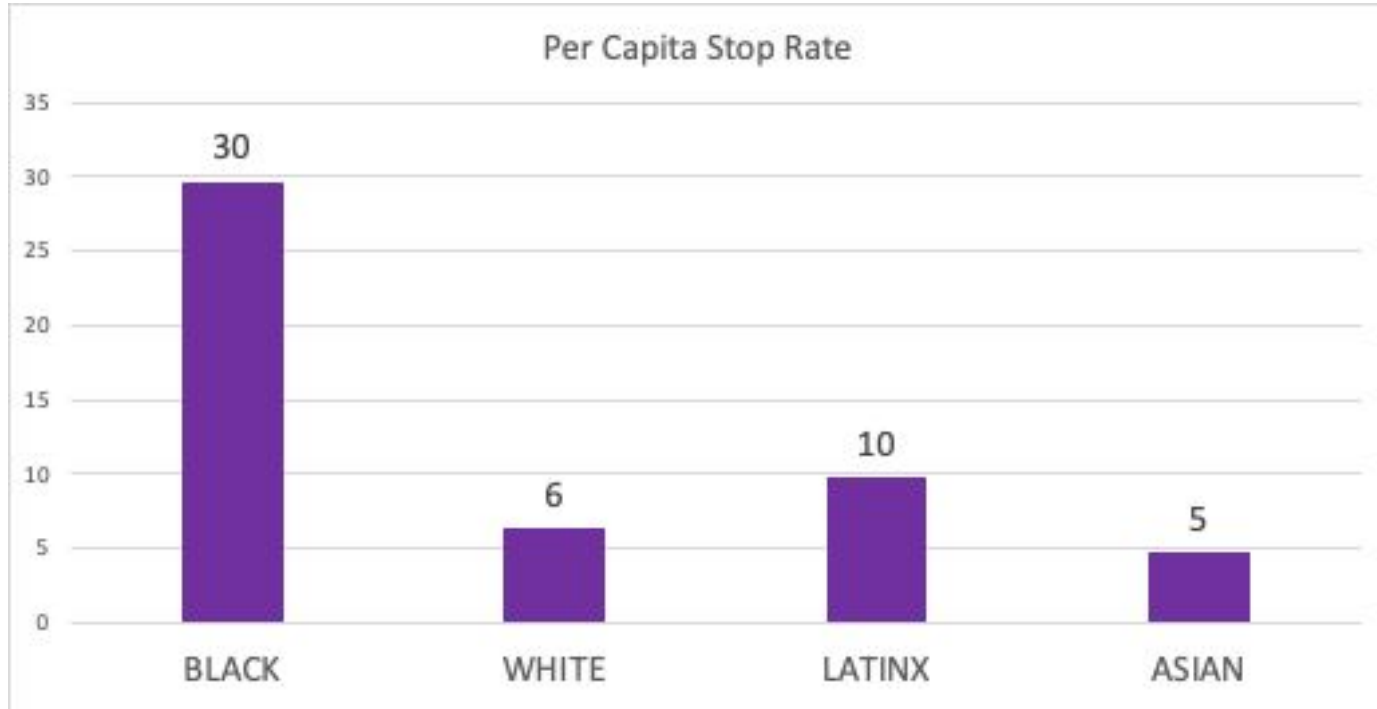
Driving Without Illuminated Brake Lights



Driving Without Illuminated Brake Lights

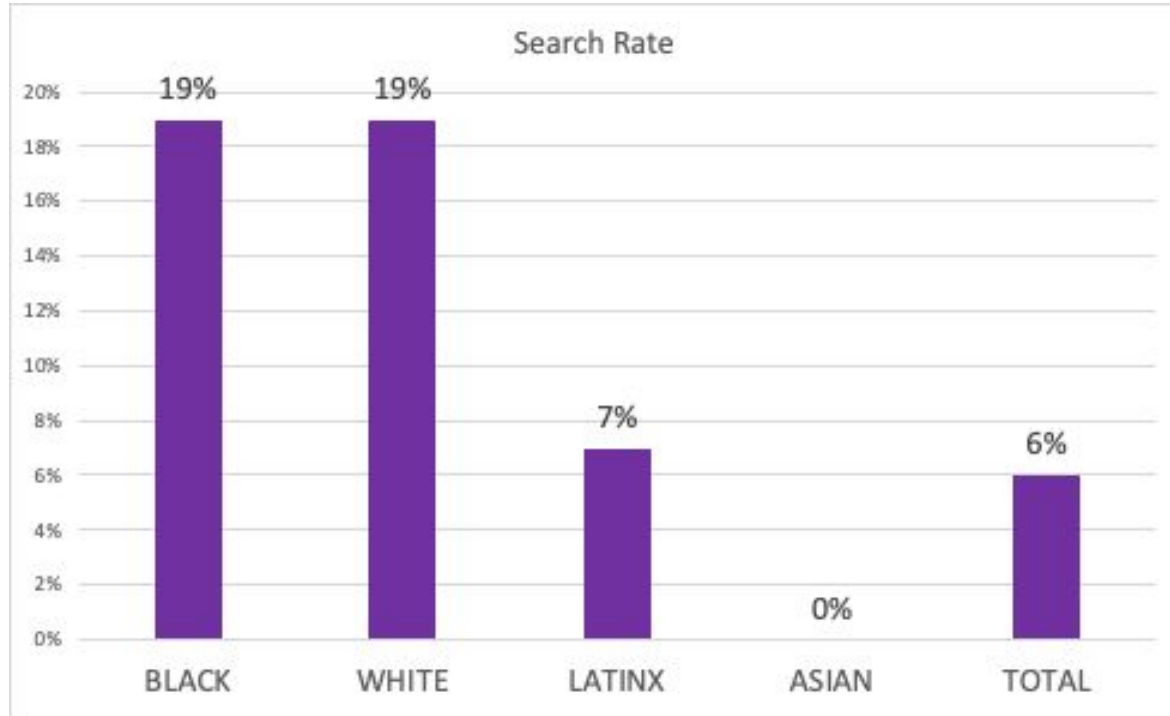


Driving Without Illuminated Brake Lights



Per 10,000 residents

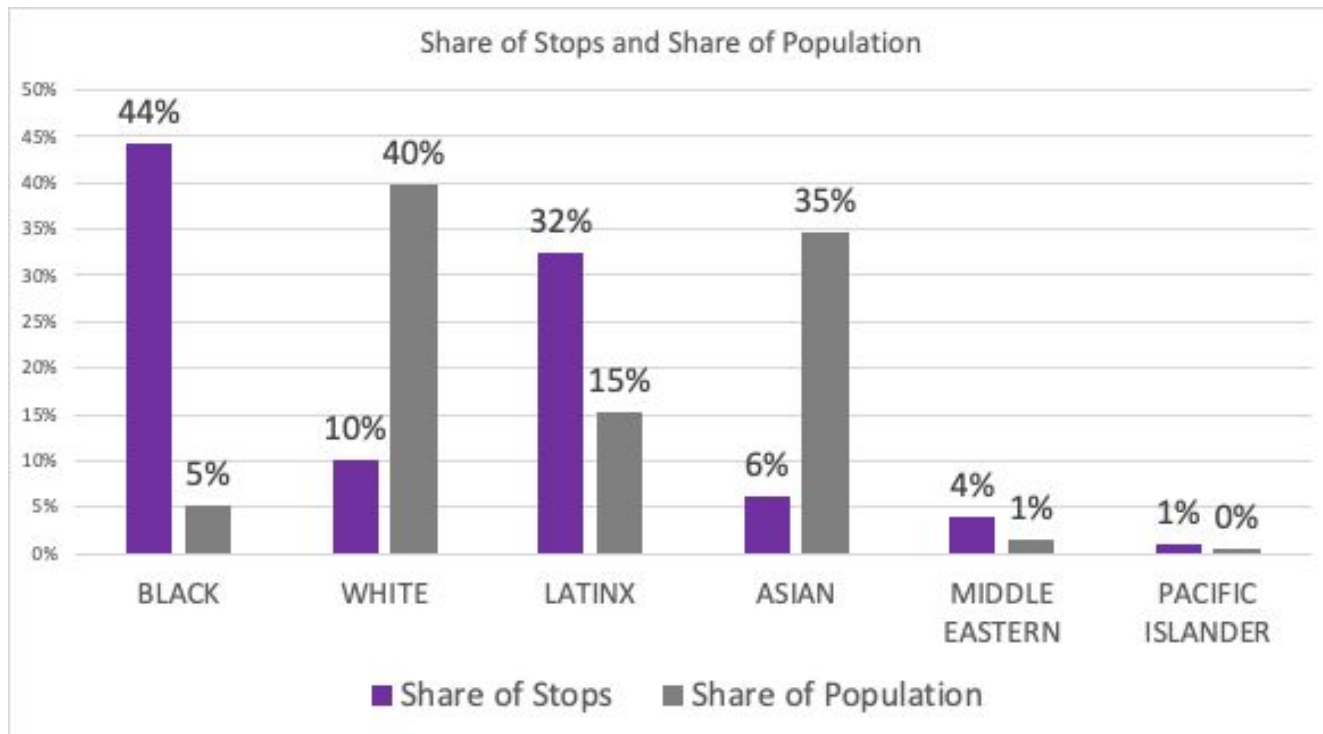
Driving Without Illuminated Brake Lights



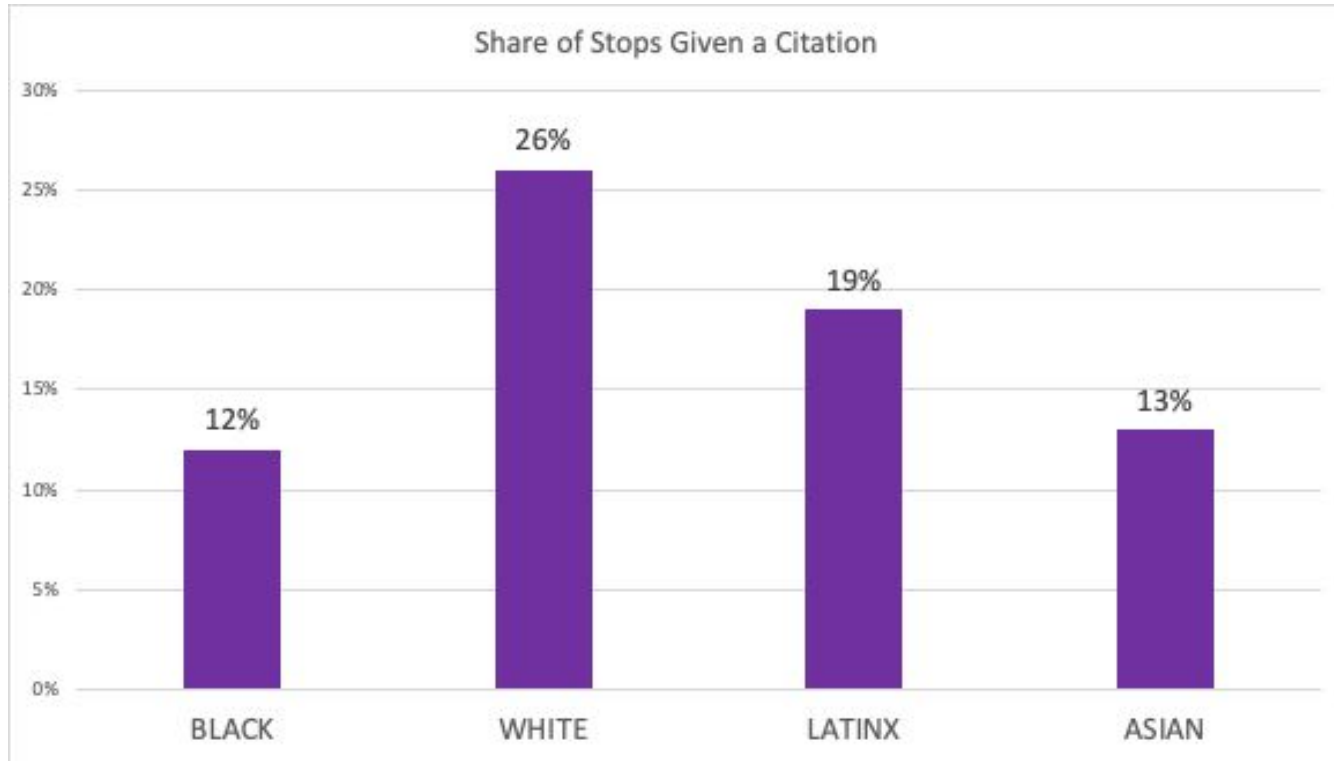
Driving Without Illuminated Brake Lights

- 714 total stops
- 1% of searches resulted in recovery of contraband
- No guns were discovered at these stops
- 0.3% of stops resulted in an arrest

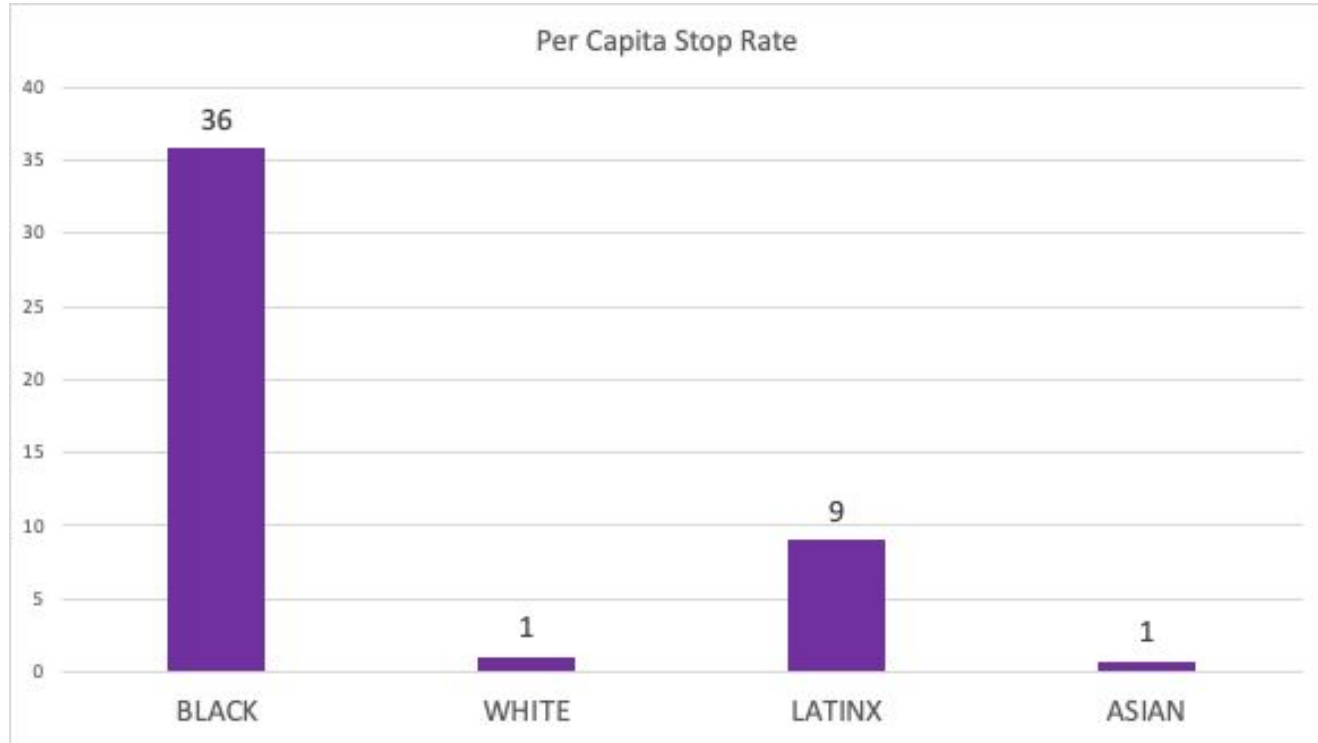
Objects Affixed to Mirror



Objects Affixed to Mirror

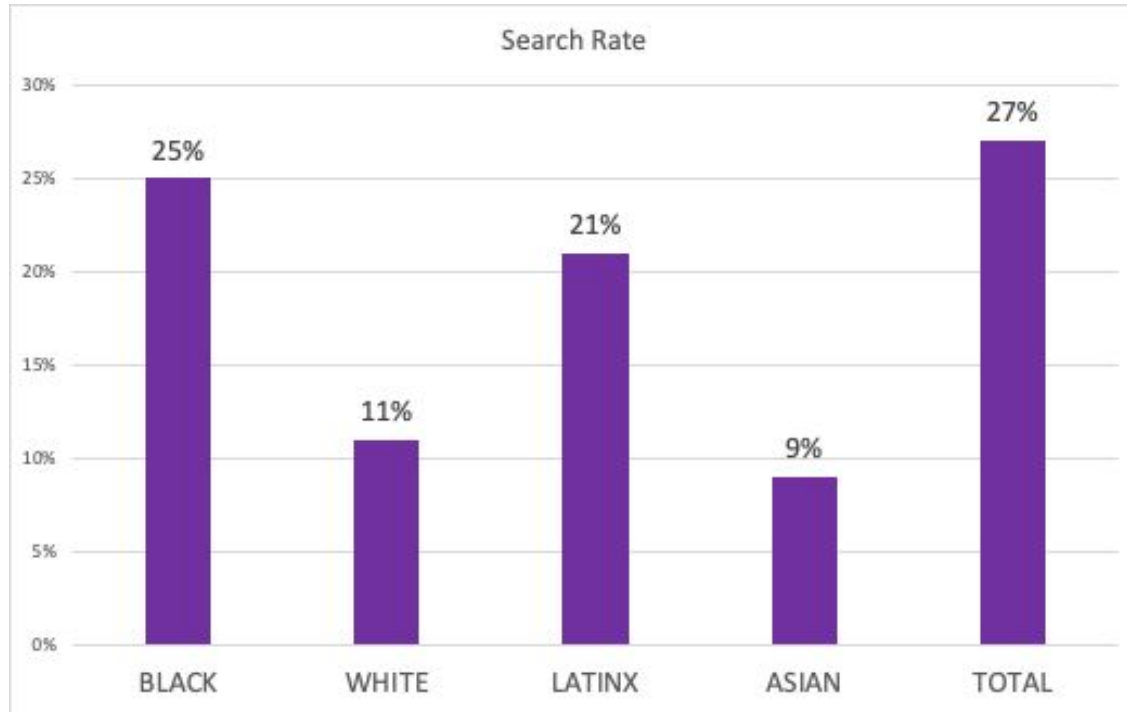


Objects Affixed to Mirror



Per 10,000 residents

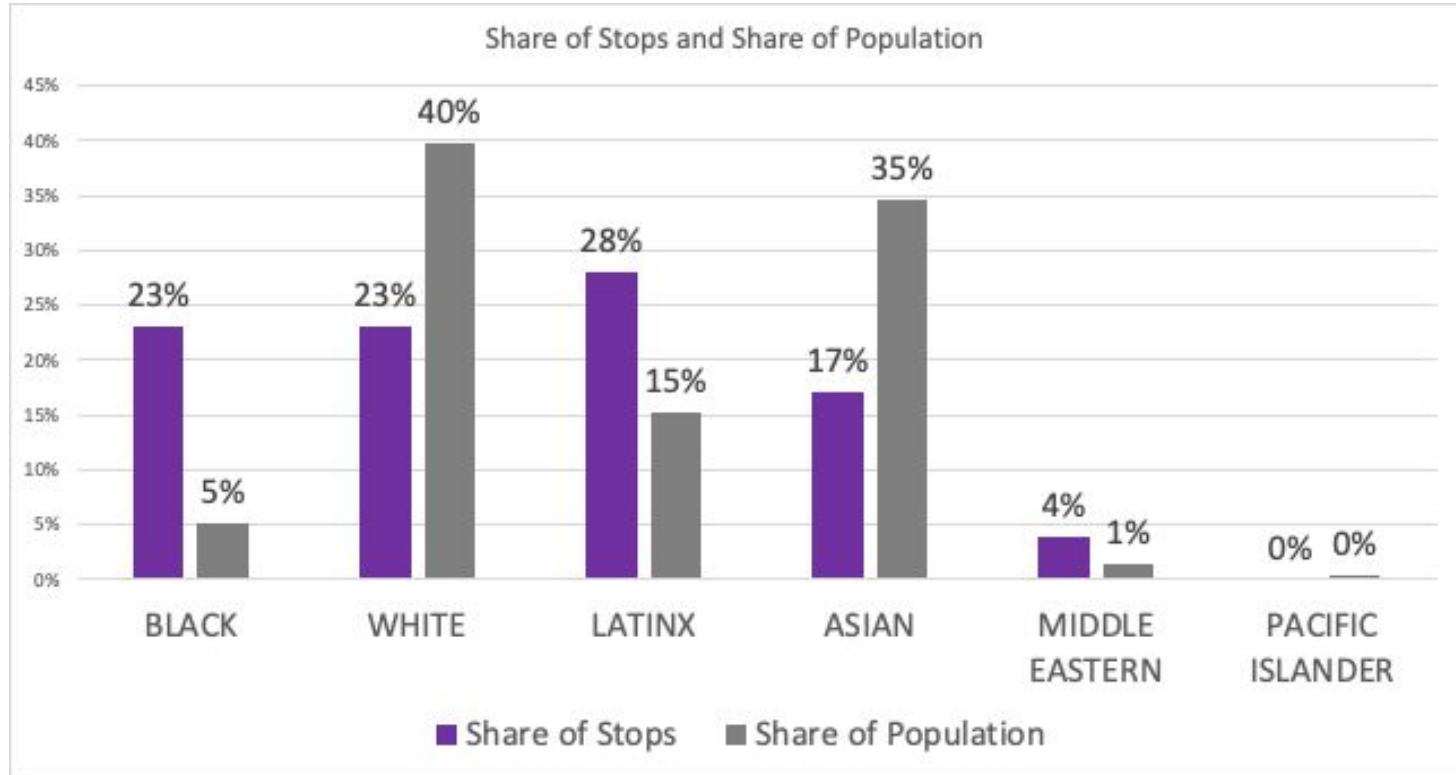
Objects Affixed to Mirror



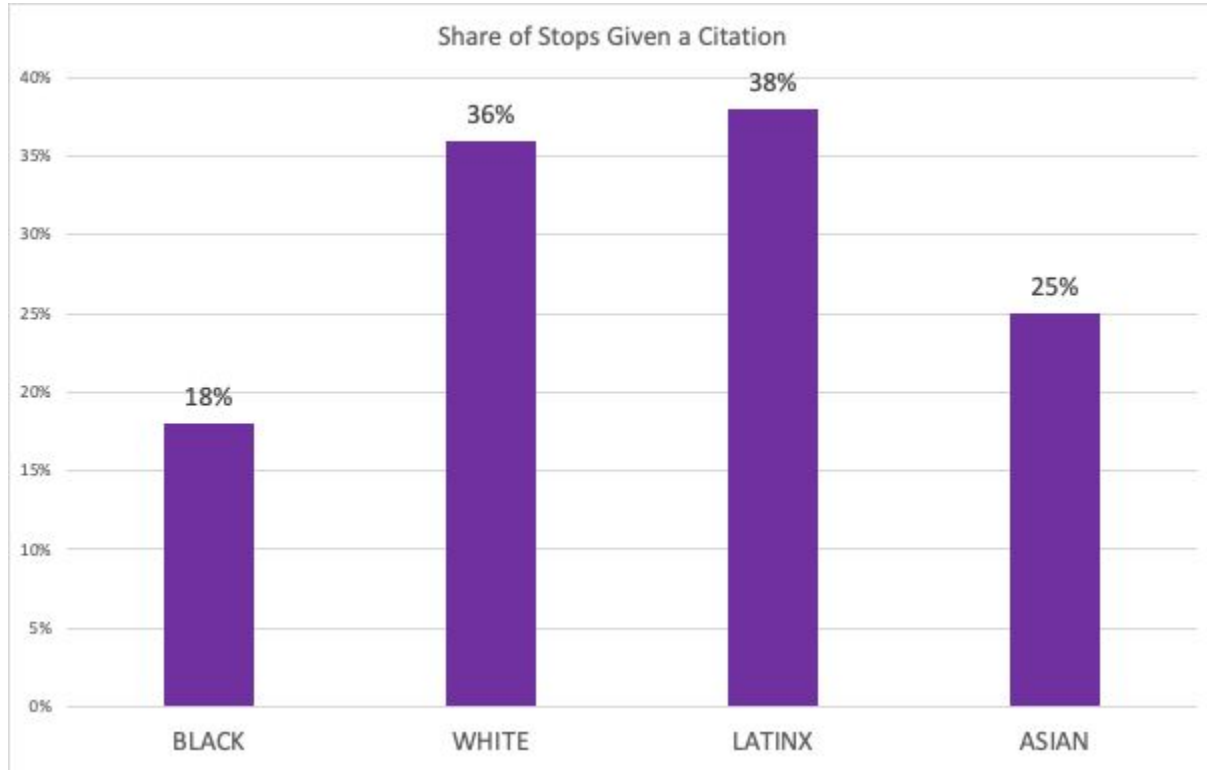
Objects Affixed to Mirror

- 373 total stops
- 5% of searches resulted in recovery of contraband
- Fewer than 1% of stops resulted in recovery of a gun
- 1% of stops resulted in an arrest

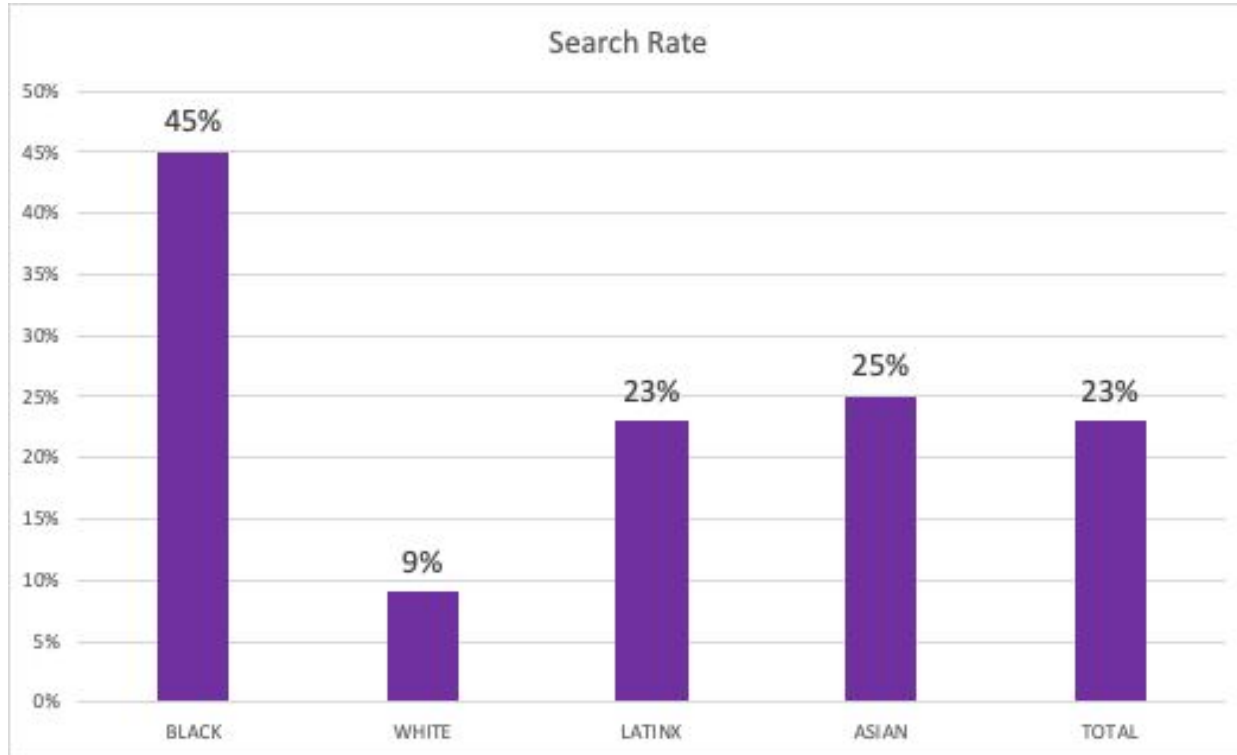
Failure to Signal



Failure to Signal



Failure to Signal



Failure to Signal

- 51 total stops
- 11% of searches resulted in recovery of contraband
- 2% of stops resulted in the recovery of a gun
- 0% of stops resulted in an arrest

Proposed Pretext Stop DGO Effect

- Result in at least 10,000 fewer traffic stops
- Stop an estimated \$830,000 in fines and fees annually
- Would help reduce racial disparities in traffic stops by eliminating the number one reason Black drivers are stopped in San Francisco

Q+A



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